

## **Malaysia offers its expertise in helping poor**

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### **SOLIDARITY: Countries can learn from our success, says Muhyiddin**

KUWAIT: MALAYSIA is willing to share its experience in eradicating poverty with other Asian nations as part of its commitment to forge solidarity with nations in the continent.

Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said Malaysia's success in eradicating poverty since achieving independence could be emulated by poor and developing nations in the region.

"Malaysia would like to offer its expertise in socio-economic fields such as poverty eradication, education and youth development through its capacity building activities under the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme," he said in a speech at the first summit of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) here. Malaysia had a 70 per cent poverty rate when it achieved independence in 1957, but this had been reduced to between two and three per cent.

Muhyiddin also made a point on food security, where he called for more efficiency in the supply chain between farmers and consumers.

"In addressing food security, not only must food production increase, but we must also ensure farmers get fair returns for their labour," he said.

"More often than not, farm prices are barely enough for farmers to survive while final consumers pay high prices."

Muhyiddin told the summit that Malaysia has a facility in the form of the Rural Transformation Centres, which act as collection points for farmers to bring their produce to ensure they get better prices.

The deputy prime minister, who is leading the Malaysian delegation to ACD, also proposed a comprehensive reform of the international financial architecture to prevent an economic crisis in the region.

"In today's increasingly interconnected world, no nation is spared from the negative impact of slower global economic growth and trade," he said.

"While efforts are being taken to address the eurozone crisis, restore growth in the US economy and boost growth in developing economies, efforts must also be taken to address the structural issues of fault lines that remain in the global economy."

Muhyiddin said Asia had developed resilience following the economic crisis of the late 1990s, and it should bank on this by setting up a "warning system" that could cushion the impact of a volatile economic climate in other parts of the world.

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