

**Highly-Skilled Human Capital Crucial For Malaysia's Success - DPM  
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KUCHING, April 13 (Bernama) -- The future success of our nation is highly dependent on efforts to nurture understanding on the need to have competitive and highly-skilled human capital to propel Malaysia into becoming a high income, developed nation by 2020, Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said here Saturday night.

He said the Barisan Nasional-led government provided great attention on improving the quality of university graduates in the country, as well as on tertiary institutions.

Speaking at the handing-over ceremony of certificates and letters of invitation for the setting up of the Shanghai Jiao Tong University branch campus here, he said the objective of the national higher education policy was to make Malaysia a global education hub and transform Malaysian universities into world class institutions.

Apart from encouraging foreign universities to set up branch campuses in Malaysia, he said the higher education ministry also worked towards internationalisation of Malaysian universities through recruitment of foreign academic staff of high repute, and increasing the intake of foreign students.

"The setting up of the branch campus of the Shanghai Jiao Tong University is in line with the objective of our national higher education strategic plan to provide quality tertiary education to all Malaysians," added Muhyiddin.

The deputy prime minister said Malaysian universities were also encouraged to conduct collaborative research with international partners and enhance their international network.

With Shanghai Jiao Tong University's reputation of being among the top four in China and renowned for developing cutting-edge technology, he hoped the setting up of the branch campus in Sarawak would expedite the transfer of technology stimulation.

"The expertise they possess will greatly aid and facilitate Malaysia in the development of high technology sectors, such as the development of micro satellite, to monitor environmental and natural resources," said Muhyiddin.

He said the branch campus establishment would further strengthen the bilateral ties between Malaysia and China, as an addition to the goodwill which the two countries enjoyed through strategic cooperation in various fields.

"I foresee the next step forward is the development of the recognition framework of bachelor degrees of China and Malaysia," he added.

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