

**Future Of Digital Economy Depends On Level Of Ict Usage - Najib
Bernama
24 Aug, 2013**

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 24 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak today said the future of digital economy in Malaysia is very much dependent on how the country develops, nurtures and harnesses the benefits of information and communication technology (ICT).

The prime minister said he firmly believed that digital technology and the embracing of a digital lifestyle was the differentiator that would serve to take Malaysia to a new level of success, prosperity and global recognition.

"I can see that there's so much more that we can explore and do to increase innovative use of broadband and ICT," he said when launching the Digital Lifestyle Malaysia 2013 show at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre here today.

The way people did business, travel, govern, educate and learn was undergoing rapid and total transformation, thanks to ICT, he said at the function which was also attended by Communication and Multimedia Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Shabery Cheek.

The prime minister said that ICT and broadband would increasingly become an integral part of everyday life for Malaysians moving forward, and noted that broadband penetration alone was no longer important.

"What's important for the future is what Malaysians will be using the ICT and broadband for," Najib said.

He explained that this was why the government had invested heavily to ensure the delivery of various government services online.

At the event, Najib also presented Broadband Empowered Entrepreneur (BEE) Awards 2013 to eight outstanding online entrepreneurs who benefited from the National Broadband Initiative.

The awards recognise the outstanding achievements of small entrepreneurs who have managed to develop and transform their conventional businesses from 'offline' to 'online'.

The recipients included seaweed entrepreneur Kabilah Abdul Hassan, Hiral Doshi (fashion accessories), Maryanne Low (women's apparels) and Zaidi Awang (pillow filling material).

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Source: <http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v7/newsindex.php?id=972362>