

Malaysians Should focus On Science to Help Malaysia Become Developed by 2020 - Mahathir
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KUALA LUMPUR, June 11 (Bernama) -- Former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad today called for more Malaysians to focus on science in order to realise Malaysia's vision to be a developed nation by 2020.

He said apart from focusing on high capital income, achievement in science would also determine whether the country is on the right track to become a developed country.

"Malaysia has the capacity to do that if we are continuously focusing on science for a better life.

"When it comes to science, I think it is important for the subject (science) to be learned in English, if we want to keep up with the latest new findings from all over the world," he said at the 2013 Mahathir Science Award ceremony here.

The recipient of the award, Professor Alan Cowman, an Australian scientist was awarded US\$100,000 (RM321,184), a gold medal and certificate for his groundbreaking research on malaria.

Cowman's contributions have led to the identification of better targets for the development of new drugs against malarial infection, and accelerate efforts to solve one of the major health problems in the tropics.

His research has paved the way further towards finding a candidate vaccine for malaria infection that continues to kill millions of people in Africa and Asia.

Also present were Dr Mahathir's wife, Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, Mahathir Science Award Foundation chairman Tan Sri Samsudin Osman and Academy of Sciences Malaysia's president Tan Sri Dr Ahmad Tajuddin Ali.

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