

## **Muhyiddin Advises Educators To Use Innovative Teaching Approaches**

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PUTRAJAYA, Sept 2 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin today advised educators to always find innovative approaches to encourage student participation in the learning process at schools and institutions of higher learning.

He said one option that they could explore was the massive open online courses that allowed educators and students to directly participate and interact through the web and flipped classroom.

"Integrated media (and notes) content can increase access to learning without time or space constraints, besides reducing cost and saving time.

"This can also help students master alternative ways in understanding a concept and theory as well as achieve a competent learning outcome," he said when addressing the eighth Education Ministry National Academic Awards 2013 at the Putrajaya International Convention Centre (PICC) here.

At the event, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak presented the 2013 National Academic Personality Award to the first vice-chancellor of Universiti Putra Malaysia Prof Emeritus Tan Sri Dr Mohd Rashdan Baba.

Mohd Rashdan, 79, who hails from Rembau, Negeri Sembilan, received a trophy, RM200,000 and a certificate of appreciation for his contributions in the field of agronomy.

Muhyiddin, who is also the education minister, said if educators took the initiative to apply the innovative approaches, he was confident the country's education could be empowered to a higher level.

He also urged academicians and educators to regard the award as an inspiration and catalyst towards excellence of the self and of their respective institutions of higher learning.

"This award is not just a recognition of those who have achieved excellence in teaching but also for researchers, book writers, arts practitioners, entrepreneurs and academicians who have shown excellence in generating and sharing knowledge," he said.

Muhyiddin said more innovative approaches were needed given that times had changed and learning was getting to be more challenging.

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