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Abdullah: Use knowledge to create value in work

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KUALA LUMPUR: Better skills and greater knowledge, life-long learning, industry participation in education and the formal study of human capital are keys to economic growth and development.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said people needed to be educated on how to use knowledge to their advantage.

"(This needs to be done) to create value in their lives and in their work," Abdullah said.

He said individuals of any age with functional skills could participate and progress in education,

training and employment.

They will also be able to develop aptitudes, attitudes and behaviours that would enable them to contribute to their communities.

Speaking at the 35th International Federation of Training and Development Organisations World Conference and Exhibition yesterday, he said the four strategies could be used to improve the quality, delivery and relevance of education and training.

He said a culture of life-long learning had to be developed where people sought to re-equip themselves with knowledge and skills.

In this sense, he urged employers to view the cost of educating

and training their workers as an investment for the future.

He called on industry groups to shape the content, delivery and assessment of education and training, particularly at the tertiary level.

"The industry's input at the curriculum design, delivery and assessment stage can ensure that graduates are equipped with knowledge and skills that are highly sought after by employers.

"Moreover, university-industry linkages are pivotal in developing the field of research and development, which is a basic requirement to increase the country's innovative capacity," Abdullah added.

On the formalising of the study of human capital development, he said Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) was a good example as it had established a global centre of excellence for human capital.

He said it had a community of academics, practitioners and professionals with a mission to develop research capabilities in education, training and human capital development.

The conference and exhibition held at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre until Friday was organised by UiTM.

More than 1,000 participants from 50 countries attended the event for which the *New Straits Times* is the official newspaper.