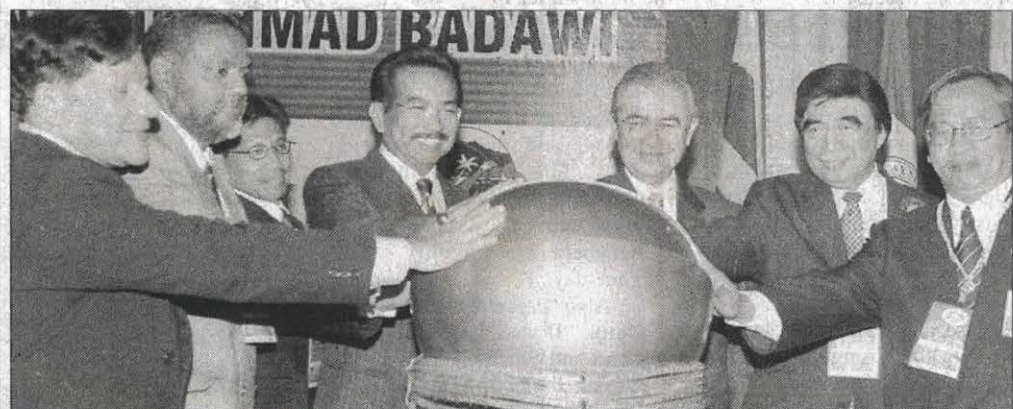




Abdullah flanked by Musa and other VIPs at the conference opening.

CM: Sabah's success rests on quality human capital

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By Barnard Yaang

CM Datuk Seri Musa said the future success and performance of the State rests on the quality of its human capital.

He stressed that continuous development of the people's knowledge and broadening of their skills were central to any plan for economic development.

Inevitably, he said effective development of human capital as a whole promotes evolution of a well-rounded, flexible and adaptable individual who is able to master existing technologies and ensures future technological progress.

"As Sabah develops and transforms into a knowledge-based economy, human capital management will increasingly evolve into one of the most crucial components in attaining our goals," he said, adding in this respect, the conference was very timely.

Human capital, Musa said, would be one of the most important foundations for sustainable economic development as it is also one of the significant ingredients for a successful social transformation.

According to him, human capital is largely nurtured and amassed through education and training.

Hence, there was a need for continuous education and job-related training which would help employees to hone their skills and enhance their knowledge.

He said rapid advancement in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) demand that each and every employee becomes technologically literate and well equipped with knowledge needed to utilise new technologies and employ those for further innovations.

Towards this end, Musa said institutions of

higher learning have a very important role in the development of human capital.

In the case of Sabah, he said Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS), Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) and other private institutions such as Inti College, UTAR and Unitar fulfil this important function in training and educating students.

"(Once this is realised) it eventually produce knowledge-workers that would ensure successful realisation of our state's development plans," he said.

Employees at all levels must, therefore, adopt a life-long learning culture. They must continually strive to acquire new skills as well as enhance and expand the knowledge they already have.

The Sabah Government, in this context, believed that creativity and innovation are essential for enhancing the State's competitiveness.

"At a time when our state undergoes a transformation into the knowledge-based economy, a greater need arises for an innovative and versatile workforce," he said.

He added that an innovative individual or company who can dovetail and carve a presence in the global market place can make fortunes overnight.

On the other hand, Musa said those who lag behind and fail to come up with innovative strategies and effective methods to compete at the international stage are going to lose.

Therefore, human capital was clearly the key factor that determines an economy's ability to perform well and succeed within the global economy.

On this note, he said Malaysia's prospects for achieving success and realising the hopes of its people hinges on the wise utilisation of human potential.