Nurture innonative minds of the young: DPM

KUALA LUMPUR: The government recognised that education plays a significant role on developing the skills that generate entrepreneurial mindsets and leadership, said Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin today.

He said calls have been made for the institutions of higher learning in the country to come up with strategic efforts to nurture the entrepreneurial and innovative minds of the young generation.

He added this was essential to leapfrog the country's economic transformation from a middle-income to a high income nation by the year 2020.

The government also believes that quality education remains a key priority area for continuous improvement.

"In addressing entrepreneurship education, we have to realise that we also have to face multiple challenges that may vary from country to country in intensity."

"One of the key issues is the content and pedagogy; what to reach and how to teach them.

"In this regard, it is important for us to recognise that learning institutions such as schools, colleges and universities have different priorities, cultures, norms, knowledge and research emphasis and traditions," said Muhyiddin in his keynote address at the opening of 3rd UNESCO - APEID Meeting on Entrepreneurship Education: Entrepreneurship Education for Global Prosperity here today.

He also added that another consideration was whether the country's educators are properly trained to disseminate understanding of different ways and methods to develop and support entrepreneurial mindsets.

"This will require effective cooperation between the education sector and industry," he said.
The meeting is attended by 120 participants including policy makers, educators, entrepreneurs, professionals and youth from 21 countries including Malaysia.

Thirteen papers on challenges and the way forward in terms of promoting entrepreneurship especially among the young will be presented at the three-day event.

Present were UNESCO Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education, Bangkok, Thailand director Gwang-Jo Kim, Education Minister II P Kamalanathan and Education Ministry secretary-general Datuk Dr Madinah Mohamad.