

'Equip children to face complex world'

KUALA LUMPUR: Educators need to blend new media in their teaching methodology and adopt only the best to support young children, said the prime minister's wife Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor.

"This is to help children to become more skilful and capable in dealing with an increasingly complex environment," she said when opening the 2010 International conference on children's books yesterday.

While preschoolers needed to prepare for much more than reading and writing, Rosmah said they should have a better understanding of communication technology to keep up with the changing times.

"Educators need to blend new media in their teaching and literacy instructions and mull over how best to apply these technologies to support young children."

While focusing on technology, the children's physical, emotional and spiritual development should not be neglected.

"We must recognise that each child has unique talent, style and personality," she added.

The theme of the two-day conference is titled "Children's Literacy in the Changing World".

Rosmah also touched on the literacy rate among children which she described as vital for personal empowerment. "People with higher literacy skills are likely to have better access to life-long learning and enjoy better health, income and are less likely to be involved in crimes."

She said according to the Unesco Institute of Statistics two years ago, more than 93 per cent of Malaysians could read and write, with only 1.5 million considered as illiterate.

Rosmah also said improving the literacy rate among the young was part of the government's ongoing efforts and strategies.

The government's goal was to



The prime minister's wife, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, mingling with children of Tadika St Ronan in Jalan Pahang after launching the conference yesterday. — NST picture by Salim Shaari

achieve 100 per cent literacy rate by 2020.

Also present was education director-general Tan Sri Alimuddin Mohd

Dom.

The event, organised by the Malaysian Board on Books for Young People, the National Book Council of

Malaysia and the Malaysian Book Industry Council, features speakers from several countries including Turkey, Iran and Nigeria.