

THE STAR 25 MARCH 2015

DPM: Focus on creative arts to continue

KUALA LUMPUR: The Government will continue to focus on developing the creative arts industry as it has the potential to contribute further to the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), said Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

He said the creative industry contributed about RM33bil to the GDP.

"Various efforts have been put in place to create a culturally-rich society and enhance the appreciation of culture and arts among Malaysians," he added at the opening ceremony of the Art Economy Conference (AEC) and the launch of *Rekayasa Kebudayaan*, a translation of cultural expert Claude Mollard's book entitled *L'Ingenierie Culturelle*.

Muhyiddin said that efforts include a

RM17mil grant provided under the Economic Transformation Programme to carry out short-term programmes known as "Quick Wins" for Art Performance between 2012 and last year.

"We also have a number of higher learning institutions and other private institutions which offer arts and design courses."

"The Tourism and Culture Ministry through the National Visual Arts Gallery also plays an important role in promoting arts and culture in the country," he said.

AEC co-organiser Patrice Vallete said there were plans to conduct an artist residency project in France featuring Malaysian artists.

"The project will include various types of artists including painters, sculptors, writers, and curators."