



Hand-some win: Dr Ahmad Zahid handing over the Golden Hand award to Mohammad Tarmizi while Human Resource Minister Datuk Seri Richard Riot (left) looks on during the ceremony in Putrajaya.

The Star, Wed 21/10/2015

DPM: Don't just be village champs

PUTRAJAYA: Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi wants youths not to be just *jaguh kampung* (village champions) but aim to excel at international level.

"Now that Malaysians have proven themselves by winning the bronze medal at the World Skills Competition (WSC), I want you to aim for gold at future competitions," the Deputy Prime Minister said at the Prime Minister's Golden Hand Awards 2015 here yesterday.

Malaysia's Airul Firham Che Amran won a bronze medal in the field of hairdressing at WSC 2015 in Sao Paulo, Brazil this year, making it the first medal ever won by a Malaysian in the competition.

The next WSC is in 2017 and will

be held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates and Malaysia will also be hosting the Asean Skills Competition 2016 (ASC 2016) next year.

"I want the Human Resource Ministry, the Works Ministry and the Youth and Sports Ministry to team up and pool their resources to ensure that the Malaysian team wins the competition," said Dr Ahmad Zahid.

Mohd Tarmizi Abu Hassan, from the Kepala Batas Industrial Training Institute walked away with the prestigious Prime Minister's Golden Hand Award.

The 22-year-old was judged the best participant in the World Skills Malaysia Belia 2015 (WSMB 2015) competition in the field of "informa-

tion network cabling" and he walked home with a trophy and RM10,000 prize money.

Mohd Tarmizi will represent Malaysia at the ASC 2016 and WSC 2017.

The Golden Hand Award is an annual event which honours individuals who have showcased excellent work in the skills industry.

Nearly 3,000 youths took part in WSMB 2015 and Dr Ahmad Zahid hopes the number of participants will double next year.

As Malaysia aims to become a developed nation, the government is targeting to produce a workforce of 3.3 million by 2020, of which 1.3 million will be technical and vocational training (TVET) graduates.