



**Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor** (centre) is browsing through *'Thinking that Changes Lives'*, a book written by **Dr Marilee Adams** (right). Looking on is Universiti Putra Malaysia deputy vice-chancellor (Academic and International) **Prof Datin Paduka Dr Aini Ideris**. Bernama pic

# 'Nurture thinking skills in kids'

**PUTRAJAYA:** Thinking skills should be nurtured in early childhood as they are essential to develop a capable and efficient generation who can see beyond boundaries, limitations and self-interests.

The prime minister's wife, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, said the skills should also be continuously embedded into the education system from the foundation years until the tertiary level and beyond.

"Through these processes, the good thinking habits will be internalised from young and systematically supported along their journey into adulthood so that they are ready to face the challenges of tomorrow and beyond."

She said this in her keynote address at the International Conference On Habits Of Mind 2013, here, yesterday.

Rosmah said it could be done through purposeful play-based learning, which expands intelligence, stimulates the imagination, encourages creative problem-solving and helps develop confidence, self-esteem and a positive attitude towards learning, life and loyalty as young citizens of the nation.

She said this required policymakers and educators to endorse a sustainable pedagogy for the future that does not separate play from learning but bring them together to promote creativity in future generations.

She said viewing children as active participants in their own development and learning allowed educators and parents to move beyond preconceived expectations about what children should be learning and instead focus on what they were learning.

"In fact, play is considered to be so essential to healthy development that the United States has recognised it as a specific right for all children.

The three-day conference is hosted and co-organised by Universiti Putra Malaysia in collaboration with The Institute for Habits of Mind and The Art Costa Institute of Thinking Singapore. **Bernama**