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MAHATHIR-TAMIL

KUALA LUMPUR, NOV 15 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY URGED HISTORIANS NOT TO MERELY ACT AS RECORDERS OF THE PAST BUT ALSO TO INTERPRETE ACHIEVEMENTS THROUGH THE AGES TO SERVE AS A GUIDE TO THE PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT AS DISCOVERERS AND INVESTIGATORS OF THE PAST, HISTORIANS AND ARCHAEOLOGISTS SHOULD INTERPRETE THE RELEVANCE OF LANGUAGE, LITERATURE, RELIGION AND ARTS TO PRESENT AND FUTURE NEEDS.

+SUCH INTERPRETATIONS OF PERMANENT AGE-OLD VALUES OF HUMAN MORES, ETHICS AND PHILOSOPHY WILL NOT ONLY SERVE AS A GUIDE FOR THE FUTURE BUT ALSO AS A BULWARK AGAINST THE DANGERS OF DEPERSONALISATION OF HUMANITY,+ HE SAID WHEN OPENING THE SIXTH INTERNATIONAL TAMIL RESEARCH CONFERENCE HERE.

ABOUT 3,000 PEOPLE PACKED THE DEWAN MERDEKA AT THE PUTRA WORLD TRADE CENTRE TO WITNESS THE OPENING CEREMONY WHILE ANOTHER 2,000 MORE HAD TO MONITOR THE PROCEEDINGS FOR CLOSED-CIRCUIT TELEVISION SETS OUTSIDE THE HALL.

DELEGATES FROM 14 COUNTRIES ARE ATTENDING THE FIVE-DAY CONFERENCE ORGANISED BY THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TAMIL RESEARCH (IATR) AND THE DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN STUDIES OF UNIVERSITI MALAYA. -- MORE

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MAHATHIR-TAMIL 2 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE FIELD OF TAMIL STUDIES WAS A LARGE ONE INVOLVING VARIOUS DISCIPLINES SUCH AS LINGUISTICS, LITERATURE, HISTORY, ARCHAEOLOGY, ANTHROPOLOGY, SOCIOLOGY AND SCIENCE.

HE SAID THE TAMIL LANGUAGE, WITH ITS LONG HISTORY, HAD BEEN ACKNOWLEDGED BY SCHOLARS AS ONE OF THE MOST MELODIOUS LANGUAGES OF THE WORLD.

SUCH A QUALITY, HE SAID, HAD BEEN ATTAINED THROUGH A LONG PERIOD OF DEVELOPMENT AND CULTIVATION BY MANY GENERATIONS OF SCHOLARS, POETS, TEACHERS AND STUDENTS SINCE ANCIENT TIMES.

EARLIER, WORKS MINISTER DATUK S. SAMY VELLU, WHO IS ALSO IATR CHAIRMAN, SAID THE CONFERENCE HAD BROUGHT TOGETHER SCHOLARS IN THE FIELD OF TAMIL STUDIES TO PRESENT THE RESULTS OF THEIR LATEST RESEARCHES CONCERNING THE VARIOUS ASPECTS OF TAMIL CULTURE.

HE SAID THE CONFERENCE WOULD ALSO ASSESS THE ROLE AND DEVELOPMENT OF TAMIL IN THE MODERN WORLD. -- BERNAMA

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