

PM: Step up regional effort against dadah

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KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. — Regional collaboration in the fight against drug abuse and illicit trafficking can be strengthened, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said although such a collaboration has been relatively well established as evidenced from the co-operation prevailing within Asean non-Governmental organisations (NGOs), countries that have become routes like the Asean region can further strengthen their commitment and spirit of regional co-operation against the menace.

In his message published in the *Asean NGO Workshop to Review the Implementation of CMO programme*, Dr Mahathir said the will and commitment shown by regional NGOs were in line with the resolutions adopted at the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (ICDAIT), which he presided in Vienna in 1987.

In his opening address, Education Minister Anwar Ibrahim stressed on the need for a co-ordinated and comprehensive international response in dadah control programmes.

Encik Anwar, who is also Unesco president, said crop control, interdiction, law enforcement, education, treatment, rehabilitation and aftercare must go hand in hand if the interna-

tional community is to successfully address the global dadah threat.

"The chain of hopelessness and fatalities can only be broken, if we all do our bit in the manner we know best — through collaboration and co-operation."

In the speech read by his deputy Leo Michael Toyad, Encik Anwar said primary prevention must assume top priority in the fight against the menace.

Earlier, Deputy Home Minister and Pemadam president Datuk Megat Junid Megat Ayub said the workshop was to allow Asean NGOs to review achievements, identify obstacles and brainstorm for innovative ideas to plan for the United Nations Decade Against Drug Abuse 1991-2000.

Delegates were also expected to review NGO efforts in implementing activities suggested in the CMO (Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control) and assess their achievements.

The participating Asean NGOs are Pemadam, Basimida (Brunei), Bersama (Indonesia), CSWT-NGO-ANCC (Thailand), Philcadsa (Philippines) and Sana (Singapore).

The three-day workshop, themed "CMO — Asean NGO Initiatives", is held in conjunction with Asean Week Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.