

Study needed first, PM tells delegation

By LOO YOK SON

KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has told a Chinese association delegation that a study is needed before the Government can decide whether Malaysians can seek higher education in China.

Tan Sri Lim Geok Chan, president of the Federation of Chinese Assembly Halls, said yesterday Dr

Mahathir said the matter needed to be considered carefully because of the two countries' different political systems.

Lim, who led a delegation of the federation, met Dr Mahathir for 90 minutes on Tuesday.

He said the topics raised during the meeting included opportunities for higher education in China and the recognition of Taiwanese degrees.

"Dr Mahathir said al-

though there were students from China studying at the Islamic University here, the Government still needed to consider carefully the question of Malaysians seeking higher education in China," he said.

Lim said the delegation also urged the Prime Minister to consider recognising degrees awarded by Taiwanese universities.

"Dr Mahathir said he was pleased with the con-

tributions towards national development by the 30,000 Malaysians graduated from Taiwanese universities," he said.

"The Prime Minister felt that whether or not the Government recognises the degrees was of secondary importance because the graduates have been doing well in the private sector."

Lim said Dr Mahathir assured the delegation he would direct the relevant

authorities to continue to evaluate and assess the academic standards of the Taiwanese institutions of higher learning.

He said Dr Mahathir also agreed in principle to open the month-long celebrations of the 10th Chinese cultural festival in Kedah in September.

The delegation included the federation's deputy president Chong Ching Shiong and secretary-general Ng Teck Pong.

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