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Marina named to UN panel on AIDS

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - Malaysian AIDS Council president Marina Mahathir has been appointed by the Community Liaison Committee as its Asia/Pacific representative to the Programme Coordinating Board of the Joint United Nations Programme on AIDS.

Her appointment is a recognition of Malaysia's role and contribution in HIV/AIDS related works in Asia.

The CLC represents non-governmental and community-based organisations doing HIV/AIDS work all around the world.

The Programme Coordinating Board acts or functions as the governing body on all programme issues concerning policy, strategy, finance, monitoring and evaluation for UNAIDS.

Its composition and functions are determined by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations as well as the appropriate governing bodies of the co-sponsoring organisations of UNAIDS. The forthcoming meeting in April is the fourth meeting of the PCB.

It is also the first time that non-governmental organisations (three from developing countries and countries with economy in transition) are invited to take part in the work of the governing body of a United Nations programme.

Besides being the MAC president and Malaysian AIDS Foundation chairman, Marina is also the vice-president of the AIDS Society of Asia and the Pacific.

She has been very much involved in meetings including the consultation for policy-makers on the Women and AIDS section of the Beijing Platform for Action and regional consultations on the formation of UNAIDS.

She has also represented Malaysian NGOs at the regional and biennial international conferences on HIV/AIDS.

In conjunction with World AIDS Day last year, she was selected by UNAIDS to speak on behalf of Asia at a special session of the United Nations General Assembly.

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