

18/06/1998

Malaysia to host international AIDS conference

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed.- The Fifth International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific will be held here from Oct 23 to 27 next year, Malaysian AIDS Council president Datin Paduka Marina Mahathir said today.

Marina said MAC, the first non-governmental organisation to organise the congress, planned to provide the public with as much access as possible to information generated at the congress.

"We also intend to invite people involved in the prevention activities in the rural areas to share their experiences with the participants."

Marina was speaking to reporters after the launching ceremony of the congress' official logo by the Datuk Bandar of Kuala Lumpur Tan Sri Kamaruzzaman Shariff.

The congress is aimed at advancing communication and collaboration among Asia-Pacific countries in tackling AIDS.

Being the last major AIDS event to be held in this region for this millennium, it will be themed "The Next Millennium: Taking Stock and Moving Forward."

Marina said Malaysia would also be the first Islamic country to host the event, a milestone in AIDS prevention efforts.

The congress is expected to attract about 3,000 delegates comprising medical experts, scientists, social researchers, community workers and government officials worldwide.

The five-day congress will include a series of plenary and oral sessions, lectures, skills-building workshops as well as satellite symposia involving global video conferencing sessions.

At the logo launching ceremony, Kamaruzzaman said the City Hall will provide the logistic support, especially in promoting the event locally.

The official logo is symbolised by two juxtaposing red ribbons, one completed and the other is set in a fuzzy profile.

The completed ribbon represents efforts made in the fight against AIDS while the other signifies future commitments towards AIDS awareness and prevention.

(END)