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Science adviser among three honoured by UKM

BANGI, Fri. - Tan Sri Dr Omar Abdul Rahman, the science adviser to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, will be among three people to be conferred an honorary doctorate in conjunction with UKM's 26th convocation next week.

The other recipients are Datuk Seri Utama Dr Awang Mohd Jamil Al-Sufri and director-general of Health Tan Sri Dr Abu Bakar Suleiman.

UKM's convocation ceremony, to be graced by its chancellor Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Ja'afar, will be held on June 27, June 28 and Aug 1.

The university's vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Anuwar Ali said Dr Omar, 65, will be conferred the honorary doctorate in sciences.

The award is in recognition of his contribution in the field of education, especially in the creation and implementation of the Intensification Research Priority Area mechanism.

"This is also to appreciate his involvement in the utilisation of IRPA in producing quality products on a commercial basis, the strengthening of IRPA as seen in the increase in allocation under the Sixth Malaysia Plan and the refocusing of IRPA by placing more priority on basic research in the field of the sciences," he said.

Dr Anuwar said whenever historians or academicians speak on the development of science and technology in the country, Omar's name was never left out.

Dr Awang, 76, who hails from Bandar Seri Begawan in Brunei, will be conferred the Honorary Doctorate in Literature. He is now the head of the history centre, Youth and Sports Ministry in Brunei.

He has contributed immensely to the fields of regional literature, history, culture and religion since the 1950s.

Dr Anuwar said despite his age, Dr Awang was still actively carrying out research work in his specialised fields involving countries such as Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines, India, Pakistan, Egypt, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Yemen, China and Malaysia.

He said Dr Awang has also successfully traced back the generations of the Brunei Royal family since the days of Prophet Muhammad and the Sultanate's previous historical relations in the region.

Dr Abu Bakar, 54, will be bestowed the honorary doctorate in medical sciences.

"Dr Abu Bakar has served exceptionally well in the administration of medical services in his capacity as director general of the Health Ministry, a neurologist and in clinical research," he said.

A total of 4,935 graduates will receive their respective scrolls during this year's convocation. Last year, there were 3,621 graduates in all disciplines.

Apart from the three recipients of honorary doctorates, 35 will receive doctorates in philosophy, Master's (Medical Specialists - 137), Master's (474), honours degree (3,736), post-graduate diplomas (490), diplomas (47) and certificates (13).

Dr Anuwar said three who will graduate with the Master's in Philosophy were lecturers at the university. They are Dr Misran Rokimin (Education Faculty), Dr Engku Norbaya Engku Muda (Faculty of Allied Health Sciences) and Dr Ismail Mahamood (Faculty of Islamic Studies).

In conjunction with the convocation, a convocation fest will be held at Tapak Pesta from June 25 to June 28. Staff and students from the Faculty

of Social Sciences and Humanities will also hold a similar event from June 26 to 28 at the FSKK Building.

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