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Book on Dr Mahathir as an inventor

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - A book that reflects the Prime Minister of the country as the "inventor" with numerous innovations from electrical incense burner to special sized cutlery will be published by end of the year.

Project planner Ramesh Pillai of TCM Sdn Bhd said Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had an intense interest in inventions and innovations and that the book would capture that spirit.

"It has been a common thing for Dr Mahathir to come up with ideas and inspire organisations to embark on the project.

"And he remembers to check on their progress too," Pillai told the New Straits Times.

The book, titled "Flames of Vision, Waves of Inspiration of Dr Mahathir Mohamad" however, will not include his mega projects like the Kuala Lumpur International Airport, the Petronas Twin Towers nor the Multimedia Super Corridor.

Pillai said this was to let the readers see the Prime Minister as the inventor of simple things as well.

The International Invention, Innovation, Industrial Design & Technology Exhibition (Itex '99) at the Mines International Exhibition Centre is showcasing some 20 innovations with ideas mooted by Dr Mahathir.

The exhibits include the integrated computer aided tjanting system and zirconia cutter made from ceramics developed by Sirim Bhd.

Meanwhile, the winners of Itex '99 Invention and Design competition which was conducted yesterday received their awards today.

The World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) Gold Medal for Overall Best award this year was won by Professor Mohamad Mat Salleh and Muhamad Yahya of Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.

They had invented a device which uses biological components to detect carbon monoxide in nitrogen gas.

The Henry Goh award for environmental design went to Sam Wong Peng Kuen and Christopher Chan Wai Hung with their "Greenair", an air filtration system device.

Their already patented ingenious invention could filter black smoke and hazardous gases.

It also has a low cost of construction, operation and maintenance.

Chan said the invention could be used in the kitchen, vehicles and even factories.

There were also 26 other winners for 20 categories of the competition.

Itex '99 will be open to the public tomorrow and ends on Sunday.

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