

31/10/1999

Dr M to officiate at conference

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will officiate at the International Herb Conference, Herb Exhibition and the launching of a book on herbs of Malaysia on Nov 9 in Kuala Lumpur.

* A major herb event will also be held in Kelantan soon.

* The Asean Foundation has formed a special committee to standardise herbal medicines.

* The Malaysian Industry Government Group for High Technology (MIGHT) has set up a special MIGHT Interest Group in Herbal Products.

* Steps are being taken by MIGHT to formulate the Malaysian Natural Herbal Products Action Plan.

* A Memorandum of Understanding between the Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute, KUB and Culpeper of UK was signed last year to develop Malaysian indigenous herbs for the export market.

* Last year, the Herb Society of Malaysia was launched.

* The Traditional Herbal Practitioners Association of Malaysia is expanding rapidly in terms of membership and scope.

* There are 25 established medicinal farms in Malaysia, and many more are being set up.

* More than 20,000 herbal plants have been identified in Malaysia, of which 1,230 have medicinal value.

* There are 8,000 species of flowering plants in Malaysia, of which at least 6,000 possess medicinal value.

* The Health Minister of Malaysia has published the Malaysian Herbal Monograph, Volume One, and is working on the second volume.

* A special unit to register traditional medicine practitioners has been set up in the Health Ministry. (Registration of traditional medicines began in 1992.)

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