

14 AUG 1999

Russia-Doctors

RECOGNITION OF RUSSIAN MEDICAL DEGREES ON THE CARDS

By: Azman Ujang

KHABAROVSK (Russia), Aug 14 (Bernama) -- Over 60 Malaysians are studying in medical colleges in Russia although Russian medical degrees are not recognised in Malaysia.

But according to Malaysian Ambassador to Russia Datuk Yahya Baba, recognition of degrees from some Russian medical colleges is on the cards as both countries are close to signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on cooperation in education.

All of the Malaysians studying in Russia are private students and most are studying medicine in Kursk, over 400 km from Moscow.

Yahya said the non-recognition of Russian medical degrees by Malaysia was more due to "ignorance of the system", adding that Russia had some great medical colleges whose degrees were recognised internationally.

" But both sides are working on a government-to-government framework to tackle this and expect to sign the MoU that could lead to recognition of Russian medical degrees hopefully by the end of the year," he told Malaysian journalists ahead of the arrival of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to this Russian Far East city.

Dr Mahathir is due to arrive here tomorrow night as part of a week-long visit that will also take him to China and the Russian Republic of Buryatia in South-Central region of Siberia.

Yahya said the question of Malaysia's recognition of foreign degrees had to be worked out between officials of the countries concerned and had to be done systemically.

" We cannot put the cart before the horse. It has to be done step by step," he added.

He also said that Malaysian-made Proton cars are already on sale in the Russian market since being introduced last year.

" The distributors are targeting to sell 1,000 units this year but I was told that so far 300 units have been sold. The feedback from the buyers is that they are happy with the car," he said.

Yahya said Malaysia was cooperating closely with Russia in space technology, especially in the launch of the first Malaysian-made micro satellite.

The satellite is due to be launched from Baikanur in Kazakhstan in Central Asia in October.

-- BERNAMA

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