

06 NOV 2000

GAPENA TO USE INTERNET TO SPREAD MALAY POETRY

LANGKAWI, Nov 6 (Bernama) -- Gapena or the Federation of National Writers Associations will soon make greater use of the Internet to spread Malay poetry world-wide and forge closer bond among poets and literati using Malay as the medium of expression through its homepage.

Its chief Tan Sri Prof Emeritus Dr Ismail Hussein gave this undertaking at a meeting here last night with writers in the Malay medium from Europe, Sri Lanka, the Philippines and Singapore attending the 15th National Poetry Day.

"We are determined to forge better ties through the Internet and by making the most of gatherings such as this which carries the theme +the poet and the cyber era+," he told reporters later.

Meanwhile, the representative from Mindanao Prof Putra Nasroden C. Lomodag, speaking in fluent Malay, expressed support for the Gapena initiative besides lauding Prime Minister Datuk Seri Mahathir Mohamad's call that poets should spur society to become more progressive.

Meanwhile, Kedah executive councillor in charge of culture and tourism Osman Md Aji last night closed the event which was attended by 250 poets and literary figures from South Africa, Britain and Asean member countries, among others.

The first National Poetry Day was held in 1971 in Tanjung Keling, Melaka and last year's, in Seremban.

-- BERNAMA

ZI NH MEO RYN