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Ismail-Award

ISMAIL HUSSEIN RECEIVES CULTURAL AWARD FROM INDONESIA

By: Adnan Jahaya

MEDAN (North Sumatera), May 29 (Bernama) -- The National Writers' Association Federation (GAPENA) Head, Prof Tan Sri Ismail Hussein, received a cultural award which carries the title "Datuk Dharma Wangsa" in conjunction with the Ninth North Dialogue here.

The award was conferred by North Sumatera Malay Community Association Deputy President Tengku Nordin (rpt Tengku Nordin) in a ceremony held at Istana Maimoon here last night.

The 68-year-old Ismail, who has been leading GAPENA for 30 years, received a pair of Malay traditional costume, including a headgear and a long kris.

Some 200 writers, literary figures and culturists from northern Sumatera, northern Malaysian states and south Thailand are attending the dialogue opened by North Sumatera Governor Tengku Rizal Nordin.

Tengku Rizal, in his speech, hoped the participants would use the dialogue to enhance the strength the Malay stock's culture.

He also hoped that the peace prevailing in north Sumatera could be disseminated in Malaysia and Thailand as there had been inaccurate reports by certain media on the political situation in Indonesia.

Ismail, in his speech, said the North Dialogue could be the pioneer towards forging closer cultural cooperation among Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand.

He said this was a follow-up to similar programmes like the South Dialogue and Borneo Dialogue.

The 10th North Dialogue next year would be held in Penang, the first venue for the dialogue in 1982, he said.

Ismail said the idea to hold the North Dialogue was mooted by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad when opening a meeting of Malay culturists in Melaka in 1982.

Today, the participants, including 90 from Malaysia left for Padang Sedimpunan to continue with the dialogue itinerary.

Dialogue coordinator Drs Shafwan Hadi Umry said the five-day dialogue would come up with recommendations to enhance cultural ties in the Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT-GT).

The writers, literary figures and culturalists could play a meaningful role through the dialogue to enhance cooperation among the three countries, he added.

-- BERNAMA

AD AZZ TS