

28 SEP 2001

Marina-Congress

MAF SPONSORS 19 MALAYSIANS FOR MELBOURNE AIDS CONGRESS

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 28 (Bernama) -- The Malaysian Aids Foundations (MAF) will meet the expenses of 19 people who will attend the Sixth International Congress on Aids in Asia and the Pacific (ICAAP) in Melbourne, Australia from Oct 5-10.

Its chairman Datin Paduka Marina Mahathir said RM55,000 had been allocated to enable them to attend the congress.

"The participants comprise youths, caregivers, non-governmental representatives, community workers, and Persons Living with HIV/Aids (PLWHAs)," she said at a media conference here.

She said they would complement the 71-member Malaysian delegation made up of representatives from the government, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), the private sector and the media.

"The conference provides the opportunity for networking among countries and communities as a diverse group of people from the Asia Pacific region will be meeting under one roof," she said.

She said more than 3,000 academics, community workers, doctors, scientists, activists and PLWHAs were expected to participate in the conference.

Marina said the ICAAP offered wide ranging programmes which were broadly divided into four streams -- Treatment and Care, Prevention, Socio-Economic determinants and Gender/Sexuality.

"The Malaysian delegates will speak at various sessions, conduct skills building workshops and chair some panel discussions," said Marina.

The MAF is the fundraising arm of the Malaysian Aids Council with the objective of raising, receiving and administering funds for HIV/Aids-related programmes.

-- BERNAMA

MUN AHH AAM