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Shahrizat-IFC

M'SIA TO HOST FIRST INTERNATIONAL FAMILY CONFERENCE

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 1 (Bernama) -- Rising concerns about the stability of family life and its impact on economies, communities and nations have put family strengthening strategies high on the world agenda.

Realising that, the Malaysia government will hold the first International Family Conference (IFC 2001) to create a framework for building effective family policies and programmes.

Women and Family Development Minister Datuk Shahrizat Abdul Jalil said the conference, to be held on Oct 25-28, would focus on the critical importance of policies and programmes that meet the needs and aspirations of today's families.

"At IFC 2001, we hope to address some of the concerns of government agencies, family and community organisations and family members who are looking for ways to strengthen family life and ensure that this precious institution has the protection and support it needs," she told reporters today.

Expected to be attended by some 700 people, the conference will be addressed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad along with over 60 speakers, almost half of them from the international family development community.

"It's a full basket of talents especially those from the more developed countries because their institution of families have gone through great trauma and stress. We want to learn from them, so that we don't make the same mistake," said Sharizat.

She said the conference would also give a chance for people below 25 years to be actively involved in deliberations at their own youth roundtable session.

The young people's attendance, along with the expected participation from family-focused non-governmental organisations from around the world, promised to broaden the scope of the conference and bring valuable perspectives to the table, she said.

Among the issues that would be discuss at the roundtable are the youth's communication problems with their parents, their lifestyles, cultures, freedom and responsibilities.

Those interested to participate may call the IFC 2001 Secretariat at 03-7954 7030/31 or log on to [www.lppkn.gov.my/ifc](http://www.lppkn.gov.my/ifc).

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