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PM expresses satisfaction

Saiful Azhar Abdullah; Annie Freeda Cruz; P. Sharmini
KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today expressed satisfaction with the progress made by the International Islamic University Malaysia since its establishment 18 years ago.

"I am grateful today that what we had planned has come to reality," he said when asked of his impression of the university after its official opening.

"It has achieved beyond our expectations, the students here come from almost every Muslim country (in the world)," he added. Dr Mahathir said although the university has done extremely well, "a lot more can be done".

Asked what inspired him in 1982 to set up IIUM, the Prime Minister said at that time, many Islamic universities placed emphasis only on religious studies as if other form of knowledge had nothing to do with religion.

He said Muslims needed to acquire other knowledge for the betterment of the community.

Asked whether his message today would be accepted by university students, Dr Mahathir said it depended on who they were.