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PM-Message

PM RECORDS MESSAGE FOR ABU ASIA-PACIFIC ROBOT CONTEST

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 3 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today recorded a message for the second Preparatory Committee Meeting of the ABU (Asia Broadcasting Union) Asia-Pacific Robot Contest in Penang.

NHK Japan executive director Sekine Akiyoshi, who met Dr Mahathir today, said the message was recorded to enlist the prime minister's support for the the contest, which will held in Tokyo next year.

"This unique project was proposed by Katsuji Ebiwa, president of NHK-Japan and ABU president, and was endorsed at the Sydney General Assembly in 1999," he said in the statement released by the NHK office here.

The ABU Asia-Pacific Robot Contest, the first of its kind in the world, is scheduled next August or September with NHK Japan as the host broadcaster.

The contest is a kind of intellectual entertainment where students from all over Asia and the Pacific region are given a common set of competition rules, which requires them to build their robot using their imagination, creativity, skill and a limited budget.

Dr Mahathir, in his message, said Malaysia was very interested in the competition as it would contribute towards upgrading technical know-how in terms of modern automated technology.

"The government of Malaysia is fully supportive of this and we will do what we can to make sure that the Malaysian people will participate in this contest," he said.

He also hoped that the contest would enable Malaysians to get proper exposure to this area of technology and at the same time be able to know what was happening in other countries in the development of this technology.

The preparatory meeting tomorrow will be attended by 40 delegates from 19 member organisations.

-- BERNAMA

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