

Disabled manager, lecturer win outstanding employee awards

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SHAH ALAM, Sat. — Two disabled employees received Human Resources Ministry awards for their outstanding service performances from Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today.

They were Maybank (consumer banking division) quality assurance manager Cheong Sun Weng, 43, who won the **Tokoh Pekerja Lelaki Kurang Upaya** award and Universiti Malaya lecturer Naziaty Mohd Yacob, 32, for the **Tokoh Pekerja Perempuan Kurang Upaya**.

Cheong, from Selayang Baru, said he had never allowed his disability to stop him from doing his best while carrying out his duties.

“I have been with the bank for 22 years and my employer has been helpful and I have never been discriminated against because of my physical challenge.

“I suffered from polio when I was about three years old.

“Other disabled workers should never give up hope and always be positive by giving only the best. Self-motivation also helped me to be where I am now.

“I hope my achievement will motivate others especially physically challenged people like myself,” he said at the Workers’ Day gathering at the Malawati Stadium here.

Naziaty said she was happy working with Universiti Malaya and her employer had been helpful in making the place she works conducive.

“I always give my best to the university and I enjoy my work as a lecturer in architecture. My employer does not treat my disability as an issue and they expect me to do my job like everyone else.”

Both Cheong and Naziaty can only move around with the aid of crutches.

Since 1990, the Ministry has helped to place 3,870 disabled workers in the private sector and about 500 in the civil service.

According to Labour Department statistics, 80.7 per cent of the disabled employed are deaf or mute or both, 17.7 per cent have physical deformities and 1.6 per cent are

blind. Last year, 584 disabled people were employed.

Meanwhile, Dr Mahathir also presented awards to Ashikin Ariffin for the **Tokoh Pekerja Perempuan** and Ghazali Omar **Tokoh Pekerja Lelaki**.

Malaysia Shipyard and Engineering Sdn Bhd also received an award for the Caring Employer (Heavy Industry category); Adam-park Graphics Sdn Bhd for Caring Employer (Small and Medium Industry category); SKF Bearing Industries (M) Sdn Bhd for the Best

Employer in Generating K-Workers (Heavy Industry category); Syarikat Salmi Tamin Sdn Bhd Best Employer in Generating K-workers (Small and Medium Industry category); Pamel Estate (Exemplary Plantation category); Persatuan Pekerja-Pekerja Awam Angkatan Tentera Malaysia (Exemplary Union — Public Sector category) and Kesatuan Wartawan Semenanjung Malaysia (Exemplary Union — Private Sector category).

All the recipients received certificates and trophies.