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Philanthropy conference to be held on Oct 9

PENANG, Wed. - A national conference on philanthropy in Malaysia will be held at Sunway Lagoon Resort Hotel in Petaling Jaya on Oct 9.

Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, wife of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, will deliver the keynote address at the day-long conference entitled "The State of Philanthropy in Malaysia: Philanthropy in the Context of a Caring Society".

The conference, organised by the Philanthropy Initiative of Malaysia (Philima), is aimed at building a broader societal understanding of philanthropy, and examining philanthropic trends in Malaysia, charity, welfare relief and religious expressions of giving.

Universiti Sains Malaysia School of Social Sciences dean Associate Professor Abdul Rahman Rahim Ibrahim said the conference would also present remarkable and untold stories of giving by corporations, foundations and individuals.

"We will explore how charitable giving can be further enhanced, how philanthropic giving can contribute to non-welfare causes, the role of corporate social responsibility and the future of philanthropy," he told reporters today.

The event will also see the launch of a study on the state of philanthropy in Malaysia.

Abdul Rahman said philanthropy was a complex phenomenon. It also includes voluntary giving, voluntary service and voluntary association for the benefit of others.

Philima co-ordinator F. Josie said Philima, housed at USM's School of Social Sciences, would soon be a referral centre.