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Marina among 24 awarded Fulbright scholarships

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - Malaysian AIDS Council president Datin Paduka Marina Mahathir is among 24 Malaysians awarded the Fulbright Scholarships by the Malaysian-American Commission on Education Exchange today.

Marina, who will undertake a study on young women empowerment, will be attached to the University of Southern California's Department of Sociology and Gender Studies for six weeks.

Speaking to reporters, she said the opportunity to conduct her study in the United States would be beneficial in promoting women empowerment campaigns, adding that the topic was chosen because of her inclination towards communicating with society in addressing issues that affect everyday life, particularly concerning women.

"I also feel that young women in this country need more information to get new ideas on what they can do and that they can achieve their dreams if they strive for them."

She received the Fulbright Professional Exchange Programme grant from United States ambassador to Malaysia Marie T. Huhtala.

Macee board chairman Karl Stoltz said the binational exchange between the Malaysian scholars and 12 American visiting scholars would further promote mutual understanding and free-flow of information between the two countries.

"The programme will not only enable recipients to pursue a particular field of study but also develop leaders who can help realise global understanding and cultural awareness between the two nations."

Macee was established in 1963 to administer the Fulbright Program and to promote and foster academic exchange.

All Fulbright grants are awarded solely on the basis of academic merit and overall appropriateness for the programme and are selected from open competitions.

Programmes under scholarship focus on themes including American Studies, Malaysian Studies, Economics and Technology Transfer, Issues in Contemporary Society, and International Relations.

To date about 1,000 Malaysians have taken part in Fulbright Programs administered by Macee.