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Mahathir-MAG

M'SIANS IN GENEVA LOOKING FORWARD TO MEET DR MAHATHIR

By: Mahrus Ibrahim

GENEVA, June 10 (Bernama) -- The newly-formed Malaysian Association of Geneva (MAG) comprising Malaysians residing in Geneva and its surrounding regions in Switzerland and France is looking forward to its first major activity -- a meeting with Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad here tomorrow.

Its president, Kenneth Khaw, said that it would be a great honour "so early in our life" to have the Prime Minister coming over to meet the association's members.

Dr Mahathir is on a two-day visit to Switzerland beginning today.

In an interview with Bernama here, Khaw said that the association was formed on May 12, this year with the objective of promoting Malaysia's image and reputation through cultural, educational, social and economic activities.

MAG also offers help to Malaysians on their arrival in areas within its ambit to adapt to their new environment and also to disseminate to Malaysians information of particular interest to them.

Present at the interview were MAG vice-presidents Adeline Loo and Balan Rengasamy as well as secretary-general, Rozalina Zakaria.

Its assistant secretary-general is Shookpui Lee and its treasurer, Amy Chan. Other committee members are Ronnie Hiew, Ibrahim Shafii, Jackdeep Singh and Ramesh Furrar Singh.

MAG now has about 70 members with different backgrounds reflecting the international mission and the economic activities in Geneva. It even has three non-Malaysians as "friends" of the association.

Khaw is a retired senior official of the United Nations Commission on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). He settled here after serving the body for 25 years.

Loo, who is attached to the World Health Organisation (WHO), is from Petaling Jaya and has been here for 13 years while Balan, who came here 20 years ago, is a financial consultant in a private firm. Rozalina, from Kuching, is working in a private bank here.

"MAG will no doubt grow in size as it develops its activities and establishes its presence," Khaw said.

The association is targeting to attract all 200 Malaysians in Geneva and its surrounding areas to register as members.

Khaw thanked officials of the Malaysian mission to the United Nations here, particularly Permanent Representative, Datin Paduka Rajmah Hussain for the encouragement that led to the setting up of MAG.

The association has drawn up a year-long programme which includes a satay party at the end of the month, gatherings for the next Hari Raya, Chinese New Year, Deepavali and Christmas, ski events, cultural shows and a get-together with similar associations such as from Indonesia.

It is also working on having its own website. It is currently organising a logo competition.

Khaw said that through its activities, MAG would also help promote tourism in Malaysia by way of increasing contacts.

"But basically, we want to make MAG as useful and beneficial to our members," he added.

-- BERNAMA

MAI RM