

Award named after Mahathir

PUTRAJAYA: The Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA), the Istanbul-based subsidiary of the OIC, will create an intellectual award named after Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Its director-general, Prof Dr Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, said yesterday the award was named after Mahathir because of his contributions to the progress and development of Malaysia as well as the Muslim *ummah*.

"Given Malaysia's multi-ethnic, cultural and religious background, what Dr Mahathir has done to Malaysia in two decades is beyond expectation. No other Muslim country can match what he has done," he told Bernama.

Ihsanoglu said the award, to be given once every four years, beginning next year, would be awarded to the best Doctor of Philosophy thesis in Islamic studies.

"The first award next year will be given out for thesis written between 2000 and 2004 about the Malay world," he said.

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