

23 JUL 2003

Law-Nobel

M'SIA TO HOST NOBEL PRIZE CENTENNIAL EXHIBITION

PUTRAJAYA, July 23 (Bernama) -- Malaysia has been chosen to host today's world most internationally recognised award, the Nobel Prize Centennial Exhibition, in March next year, Science, Technology and Environment Minister Datuk Seri Law Hieng Ding said today.

He said the exhibition will be held at the National Science Centre in Kuala Lumpur from March 20 to July 27.

"The exhibition will give Malaysians a chance to know what is Nobel Prize is all about. We have heard a lot about this award, but many still do not know how to win it.

"This is also in accordance with what the Prime Minister (Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad) has been telling Malaysians to win the Nobel Prize by 2020," he told reporters after briefing the media on Expo S&T 2003: An Exhibition On Science and Technology.

He said Malaysia is the only developing country picked to host the exhibition apart from nine other countries given the opportunity to do so.

The United States, United Kingdom, Japan and Italy are among the countries.

Law said lectures from the prize winners and other activities would be held during the exhibition.

"We'll come out with a programme soon," he said.

He said the year 2001 marked the 100th anniversary of the Nobel Prize. More than 700 people have received the prize for their outstanding contributions in chemistry, medicine, literature, peace since 1901 and in economics since 1969.

In commemoration of the Centennial Nobel Prize, the Nobel Foundation established the Nobel Museum in Stockholm, Sweden.

The Nobel Museum introduced the life of Alfred Nobel, background to the emergence of the Nobel Prizes and the system of selecting winners and awarding the prizes.

A duplicate of the exhibition has been created for world tour. Last year, from August to December, a travelling exhibition was held in Oslo as Norway (with Sweden) is one of the two prize-awarding countries. The next venue is Tokyo.

This travelling exhibition attracted tremendous public interest.

Law also said the two-day science and technology expo, which will be held from Aug 7 at the Putra World Trade Centre is expected to attract over 15,000 visitors.

"This year, we will have over 100 exhibitors, among others; in aerospace and aviation, audio visual equipment, biotechnology, education, robotics, and health and fitness," he said.

The S&T is the regional platform for scientists, technologists, researchers, inventors, industry players, venture capitalists and investors to network and to market the products.

-- BERNAMA

SHI TS