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Agong-Arts

AGONG OPENS USM-ABN AMRO ARTS AND CULTURAL CENTRE

PENANG, Jan 16 (Bernama) -- The Yang di-Pertuan Agong, Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Syed Putra Jamalullail today opens the USM-ABN AMRO Arts and Cultural Centre in Lebu Pantai here.

He was met on arrival by Chief Minister Tan Sri Koh Tsu Koon, Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) Vice Chancellor Prof Datuk Dzulkifli Abdul Razak and USM Board of Directors Chairman Tan Sri Ani Arope.

The King was accompanied by Raja Permaisuri Agong, Tuanku Fauziah Tengku Abdul Rashid, who is also the university's chancellor.

The centre, which provides information on the arts and cultural developments in the country, was set up with the cooperation of the merchant bank, ABN AMRO.

His Majesty struck the gong three times to mark the opening of the centre before touring an exhibition of Malay weapons.

In her speech, Tuanku Fauziah hoped that the arts and cultures of the various communities were taught again to students to foster traditional values and promote unity.

"The efforts to bring back the various aspects of our arts and cultures, which are on the verge of extinction, are most appropriate and by having this centre, society could see and learn, and help also to popularise the arts and cultures of each race," she said.

Meanwhile, Dzulkifli said USM was planning various arts activities and exhibitions, including an exhibition of Thousand Faces of Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Later in the evening, their Majesties attended the "Malam Sanggar Sanjung" (Hall of the Fame) of the university.

The Regent of Perlis Tuanku Syed Faizuddin Syed Sirajuddin Putra Jamalullail and the Raja Puan Muda of Perlis, Tuanku Lailatul Shahreen Akashah were also present.

During the function, Tuanku Fauziah launched the logo for the 35th anniversary of USM.

She also presented awards to more than USM 200 lecturers, researchers and officers for achievements in various fields last year.

Eight of them received prominent researcher award, 41 research product award, seven publication award, four creativity award and six excellent educationist award.

They each received a trophy and cash.

-- BERNAMA

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