

17/01/2004

Honorary USM doctorate for Dr M in August

PENANG, Fri. - Former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad will be conferred an honorary Doctor of Science degree by Universiti Sains Malaysia during its 33rd convocation ceremony in August.

USM vice-chancellor Professor Datuk Dzulrifli Abdul Razak said today to honour the many contributions by Dr Mahathir during his tenure as Malaysia's fourth Prime Minister, notably in the education sector, the university was also arranging to stage the photo exhibition "A Thousand Faces of Dr Mahathir" in Penang.

"We want the campus community and also Penang residents to enjoy the exhibition which has had a good following," he said at the opening of the USM-ABN Amro Arts and Cultural Centre in Lebu Pantai in George Town.

The centre, located in the heritage enclave of the city, was opened by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin. Present were USM chancellor Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Fauziah, Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon, his deputy Datuk Dr Hilmi Yahaya, USM's board of directors chairman Tan Sri Ani Arope and members of the diplomatic corps.

The centre is set up in the former premises of ABN-Amro Bank which was built in 1824 and the building has been leased by USM from the bank.

It will serve as the university's off-campus art gallery and a showcase for the country's dying trades.

Besides exhibiting foreign and local works of art, USM also plans to host "artists-in-residence" such as wood carvers and kris makers.

Today's event also saw the launch of an exhibition of a royal regalia and traditional weapons.

In her speech, Tuanku Fauziah called for the revival and teaching of arts and culture of all Malaysian races, as a way of promoting national unity.