

29/05/2003

Awards to promote quality among small and medium industries launched

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - The Small and Medium Industries Recognition Awards, jointly organised by the SMI Association of Malaysia and Sin Chew Daily, was launched yesterday at the Sunway Lagoon Resort.

"The awards are to promote quality SMIs," said Minister of Health and organising chairman Datuk Chua Jui Meng at the launch of the awards.

He said such recognition would not only help reinforce the product branding of the SMIs in the global marketplace but also raise their intellectual property value substantially.

Since they are now identified by the Government as having the potential to become a catalyst of growth for the economy, it is important to recognise their achievements.

He said this was evident with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad himself taking into consideration the impact of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome on SMIs.

A total of RM1 billion was allocated to SMIs in the new strategic economic package announced by Dr Mahathir on May 22.

President of the SMI Association of Malaysia, Looi Teong Chye, said that SMI candidates would be considered for awards after being nominated through the various trade associations, chambers of commerce, guilds and professional bodies.

Nominations is open until July 31 and winners will be announced on Sept 1. To create greater awareness of the awards, the organisers are holding a contest to design a logo for the awards.

Closing date for entries is July 30.