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Night to reward research efforts

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DURING the Rotary year 1981-82, the Kuala Lumpur Rotary Foundation under the leadership of Dr. J.S. Sambhi (now Datuk Dr J.S. Sambhi) established "The Rotary Research Foundation".

The foundation was created to advance Malaysia's research activities.

Projects were carried out to raise money "without tears" and in an entertaining way.

Hence, the charity premiere of James Bond's For Your Eyes Only, a ladies walkathon, an Indian cultural evening and a stage presentation of Hello Dolly were held for fundraising purpose.

The research fund also offers grants to research carried out in medicine, science, industry, environment, sports or even employer/employee relationship.

"As far as we know, this is the first service club in the country and the only Rotary Club in the world to establish a permanent research foundation," said Sambhi in an interview with the New Straits Times.

An award night is held to honour people who have contributed to research and development.

This year is no exception as several names have been shortlisted for the Honorary Gold Medal award and Research Fellowships.

To be presented at Hotel Equatorial, Kuala Lumpur on Wednesday, the sixth award ceremony will be attended by Science, Technology and Environment Minister Datuk Seri Law Hieng Ding and Datin Seri Ngui Soon Leng.

The Gold Medal will be awarded to Tan Sri Azizan Zainul Abidin for his contribution to science and national development. Only three others have received this award and they were Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad (1995), Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi (1999) and Datuk Seri Law Hieng Ding (1999).

"This award is held every three to four years. It is therefore very special and is sought after by everyone," adds Sambhi.