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NIH to work closely with overseas research institutes

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - To keep abreast with research and development in bio-science, biotechnology, cancer and other diseases, the National Institutes of Health Malaysia (NIH), will start networking and have close collaboration with their counterparts in Sweden, China and America.

This was decided at the Cabinet meeting held in Langkawi yesterday.

NIH comprises the Institute for Medical Research (IMR), Institute of Public Health (IPH), Institute of Health Management (IHM), Institute of Health Promotion (IHP), Network of Clinical Research Centres (CRC), Institute of Health Systems Research (IHSR), Institute of Natural Products and Vaccinology (INPV) and National Institute for Nutraceutical and Pharmaceutical (NINP).

Health Minister Datuk Chua Jui Meng said: "Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad wants the IMR to establish links with the Karolynska Institute in Sweden. The institute is internationally known for its research and development in the field of bio-science."

At present, he said, three Malaysians are doing research in the field at the institute in Sweden.

"The Cabinet also wants NIH to have linkages with the Biotechnology Research facility in Beijing, China and NIH USA which comprises 27 institutes and centres - with 75 buildings located on more than 120ha of land in Bethesda, Maryland," he told reporters at the SMI Recognition Award Series 2003 and mock cheque presentation for RM100,000 by Marie France Bodyline Sdn Bhd for Sponsorship of Naming Rights "SMI-Marie France Bodyline Women Entrepreneur Award" at Mandarin Oriental Hotel today.

On his recent visit to the facility in China, Chua said China was involved in biotechnology and excelled in the field of traditional medicines for thousands of years and was well advanced in the fields.

He said Malaysia would benefit with its linkages.