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Mahathir-award

WHO AWARD FOR MAHATHIR

③ Mahathir profile

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KUALA LUMPUR, March 25 (Bernama) -- The World Health Organisation (WHO) will present Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad with an award for his "vast contributions towards primary health care in Malaysia".

WHO Regional Director for the Western Pacific, Dr S.T. Han, said today the "Health For All" gold medal would be presented to Dr Mahathir on Sept 19 when WHO begins its five-day 45th Regional Committee Meeting here.

He said Dr Mahathir had played a vital role to ensure that Malaysians received good and proper health care, and that because of his concern for health, Malaysia has come to be regarded by many countries as a model for health care development.

Dr Mahathir will be the second leader in the Western Pacific Region to receive the award. Tonga's health minister was similarly honoured two years ago.

Dr Han was speaking to reporters after signing an agreement, on behalf of WHO, with the Malaysian government for the hosting of the WHO meeting here. Malaysia was represented by Health Ministry secretary-general Datuk Mohamed Ramli Mat Wajib. -- more

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Mahathir-award 2 (last) Kuala Lumpur

The meeting would discuss, among other things, the need to "reform" WHO to make it more effective to the changing times, Dr Han said.

He said representatives from 27 countries would be invited for the conference which would also look into ways to organise programmes using WHO's limited funds.

Dr Han said WHO's target this year was to help combat chronic diseases arising out of adverse sex and lifestyle and illnesses caused by junk food.

Mohamed Ramli, in his speech earlier, said Malaysia was not only proud to be able to host the meeting but also honoured to be associated with the work of WHO.

"Since becoming a member of WHO in 1958, Malaysia has been able to benefit from the expertise provided by WHO for our projects which are designed to uplift the standard of health and medicare for all Malaysians," he said. -- Bernama

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