

Gold medal award to PM

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was today presented with a gold medal by the World Health Organisation (WHO) in recognition of his contributions to the health programmes in the country.

Dr Mahathir received the "Health for All" medal from WHO director-general Dr Hiroshi Nakajima after he opened the organisation's 45th session of the regional committee for the Western Pacific here.

Among those present were Health Minister Datuk Lee Kim Sai, WHO regional director for Western Pacific S.T. Han and delegates from some 35 member countries who attended the five-day conference which begins to-

day.

Dr Nakajima, in his citation, said the award was a recognition of the Prime Minister's outstanding achievements in developing Malaysia's comprehensive primary health-care system which he (Dr Nakajima) described as good quality, patient-friendly and affordable.

He said that under Dr Mahathir, Malaysia has achieved remarkable successes in many health fields such as the country's health-for-all initiatives, nutrition of undernourished children and the promotion of healthy lifestyles.

"Dr Mahathir has made the nation's health care one of his prime concerns. His leadership and support have

provided the stimulus for the successes of Malaysia's health-care system.

"Under his direction, Malaysia has evolved as a caring society emphasising human dignity and respect for the individual within the framework of a rapidly-developing country," he added.

Dr Nakajima also paid tribute to Dr Mahathir for Malaysia's health-care services which he said was a model for developing nations.

"No one has been more influential in directing the course of health development to meet the challenges of Malaysia's epidemiological transition in the '80s and '90s than Dr Mahathir," he added.