

NEW STRAITS TIMES

DATE: 31 / 08 / 2007

Survey: People proud to be Malaysian

NST- 31/8/2007

KUALA LUMPUR: National pride has increased over the years, according to an International Islamic University (IIU) survey.

Responses from Malays, Chinese and Indians generally indicated this, said Prof Datuk Dr Syed Arabi Syed Abdullah Idid of IIU's Department of Communications.

The survey was conducted five times between April 2004 and June this year.

"When I first conducted the survey in April 2004, I found the results surprising.

"When I did the survey another four times, not only were the results similar, the level of national pride rose every time."

He noted in particular the jump in results in

surveys in April and June this year.

"Of the 1,335 respondents in April, 50 per cent said they were very happy to be Malaysian.

"Two months later, the percentage rose to 58 per cent for the 1,347 respondents in the June survey. This shows a rising trend in national pride," he added.

"We have issues to be ironed out but, generally, Malaysians are very proud to be Malaysian, especially in the period leading up to the 50th anniversary of Merdeka."

The face-to-face survey was conducted among those aged 21 and above by university students.