

Najib is the first recipient of educator award

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PETALING JAYA: Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak will be the first recipient of the ABE-Edward de Bono International Gold Medal Award in recognition of his performance and contribution to education nationally and internationally.

He will receive the award at the Mandarin Oriental in Kuala Lumpur on Aug 27.

An independent committee of prominent educators from Britain, including chairman Datuk Dr Tan Tiong Hong, secretary-general Dr Tan Toh Wah, committee members Lyndon Jones and Dr Edward de Bono and host country representative Datuk Azim Zabidi elected Najib for the award, which is also known as the "Educator" Award.

Britain's Association of Business Executives (ABE, UK) has given recognition to individuals, politicians, corporate leaders and statesmen who have made significant contributions to the field of education for over 35 years.

This is the second time the association is giving the recognition to Najib, who has received the Stockton Award at the first con-

ference of the Malaysia Export Council in May 1999. In a statement here yesterday, the association said Najib was instrumental in getting foreign academic institutions to start twinning programmes with Malaysia in the mid 1990s.

"It helped to meet the increasing demands for tertiary education in the country, nationally and internationally," it said.