

M'sian gets third term on UN maritime panel

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NEW YORK: Malaysia has been re-elected for a third term to a UN commission that facilitates the implementation of international rules on maritime space and activities.

Datuk Dr A. Bakar Jaafar, a senior adjunct fellow of the Maritime Institute of Malaysia, will be among the 21 members of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS) for a five-year term.

It is a position he has held since 1997 and this will be his third consecutive term. (There are five Asian members on CLCS.)

On the significance of the re-election last week, he said: "This

demonstrates Malaysia's commitment to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea."

The Law of the Sea is a set of regulations on maritime space. It secures for coastal states the right to an Exclusive Economic Zone of 200 nautical miles.

The commission decides on claims made by countries that want to extend their seabed to a certain limit.

"Malaysia is also preparing to make a submission on this. We have until May 2009 to do it," he said, adding that the Government had recently completed a survey on parts of the South China Sea.

The purpose of extending the seabed was for exploration of oil and gas reserves besides other natural resources, he said.