

Rosmah Invites Smart Kids From LID Nations For Permata Holiday Camp
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BANGI, June 20 (Bernama) -- The Prime Minister's wife, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor invited two smart children from the countries attending the Ninth Edition of the Langkawi International Dialogue (LID) to attend the holiday camp under the early childhood education programme at year-end.

Rosmah, who is also the patron of the Permata Negara early childhood education programme, however, said the children have to pass a special test set by the organiser -- Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) -- before they are accepted to participate in the camp.

"The children have to sit for the test at Malaysian embassies and high commissions in their respective countries," she said.

Permata would bear the full expenses for the children to participate in the holiday camp," she told reporters after leading the spouses' programme of LID leaders to the National Permata Pintar Centre at UKM here Monday.

The wife of Tanzanian President, Salma Kikwete, wife of Kenyan Vice-President, Pauline Kolonzo, wife of Zambian Finance and National Planning Minister, Mate Musokotwane, and accompanying officials were in Rosmah's entourage.

Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, the wife of former Malaysian Prime Minister, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, and Women, Family and Community Development Minister, Datuk Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil, were also in Rosmah's delegation.

Rosmah said the offer to attend the camp was Permata's human capital development contribution to the countries participating in this year's dialogue.

She said LID leaders' wives were briefed on Permata Pintar's activities by the centre's Director Prof Dr Noriah Mohd Ishak during the visit.

"They were impressed with Permata Pintar's teaching and learning programme and expressed interest to have similar programmes in their respective countries.

"Currently, they have similar programmes back home, but they were not as complete as those being taught at the Permata Pintar centre," she added.

The Permata Pintar holiday camp will be held for three weeks during the year-end school holidays in November and December.

It will be conducted by teaching staff who were trained at the John Hopkins University's Centre for Talented Youth.

At the holiday camp, the participants will attend academic and co-curriculum activities in the form of arts and sports and will be taken on study tours.

Last year, eight foreign students from India, Singapore and Brunei attended the camp.

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