

**Permata Pintar Project To Be Expanded Nationwide – Rosmah
Bernama
August 11, 2011**

PUTRAJAYA, Aug 10 (Bernama) -- The Permata Pintar High School Programme for gifted students under the tutelage of Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia will be expanded nationwide as the project has shown encouraging results, said prime minister's wife, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor.

She said, however, the proposal would only be implemented depending on whether it would get an allocation from the government.

Rosmah, who is patron of the Permata Negara programme, said the success of the project was evidenced from accolades won by Permata Pintar and Permata Seni Muzik students in international research and arts competitions.

"We have many smart and talented students, who find it difficult to adapt to the normal education system.

"Hence, we are planning to expand this project to other states so that their talent and intelligence will not be wasted.

"We want to ensure that these children get the best education and facilities. However, we have budget constraint," she told reporters after the prize presentation ceremony for Permata Pintar's international award winners at Seri Perdana here Wednesday.

Nine winners from Permata Pintar and another from the Permata Seni Muzik received medals from Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak for winning international research and music competitions.

The recipients, included Amy Ng May Kay, who won a gold medal for her research on an environmentally friendly home-based Zero Carbon Eco House at the 3rd APEC Future Scientist Conference in Taiwan in April and Nisa Addina Mohamad Taufik, who won four gold medals at the 15th World Championship of Performing Arts in Hollywood, United States in July.

Rosmah, who was proud of the achievements, hoped Permata Pintar and Permata Seni Muzik students would continue to polish their talents in various fields to bring glory to the nation.

"I have been questioned so much on what we (Permata) do with the budget. You see where the budget goes. The success stories of Permata Pintar students prove this.

"All allocations are handled by the treasurer. I have nothing to do with all these (allocations). I can assure you that the allocations given by the government are well spent," she added.

-- BERNAMA