



Dr Mahathir (second from right) and Dr Siti Hasmah (fourth from left) viewing the exhibits.

# International students create all-round awareness

The Star  
- 9/3/2004  
pg. 21

By CHARLES FERNANDEZ  
Photos by NORAFIFI EHSAN

**T**HE recent International Students Society (ISS) Night 2004 held at the JW Marriott Hotel Kuala Lumpur could have been mistaken for a United Nations gathering.

With former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamed and his wife Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali who is also Chancellor of the Multimedia University (MMU) gracing the occasion, one would have been led to believe just that.

The event, organised by ISS of MMU in collaboration with the Students In Free Enterprise (SIFE) Club, is to create a sense of belonging among international students.

"The ISS Night 2004 is an event inspired by the previous success of Ambassadors Night 2003, which was

held to increase interaction between students and their respective embassies on a more social platform," said MMU president Prof. Dr Ghauth Jasmon.

The university has international students from over 50 countries and as previously done in Ambassadors' Night 2003, all the ambassadors from these countries were invited to ISS Night 2004.

Dr Ghauth added that events like this helped to create an all-round awareness of the various cultures from all over the world.

"This event also offers a platform for interaction between students and their respective embassies in a more social environment," he added.

Dr Mahathir and Dr Siti Hasmah were earlier taken to view an exhibition organised by ISS before they were ushered into the ballroom by

the foreign diplomats under an umbrella of flags.

The night included several cultural performances as well as exhibitions promoting peace by the SIFE club.

Dr Ghauth said the ISS MMU was building a Peace Monument in Malaysia and the objective of constructing the monument was in line with the government's call for a peaceful world.

It was also a means of continuing their efforts of promoting peace following the success of the one million signature campaign organised by AMAN Malaysia last year.

He said the Peace Monument in Cyberjaya, constructed with digital tile printing of peace messages, was expected to be completed by September.

Peace messages were also collected from guests before the end of the night.