

Intellectuals told to be globally 'outstanding'

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GEORGE TOWN: Malaysian intellectuals should be outstanding and a source of reference internationally, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said yesterday.

The Prime Minister said they should have the ability to deliberate on issues beyond geographical and academic boundaries.

"Our scholars can also help in expediting the development of the nation," he said when launching the Tan Sri Dr Noordin Sopiee's centre of excellence in global studies at Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) here.

The centre was jointly set up by the Institute Of Strategic And International Studies (Isis) and USM to showcase Noordin's accomplishment in various fields, especially in bridging the gap in international relations between Asean and East Asian countries.

Also present were Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon, Isis chairman and chief executive officer Datuk Seri Jawhar Hassan, who is also New Straits Times Press group chairman, USM board of directors chairman Tan Sri Ani Arope, USM vice-chancellor Prof

Datuk Dzulkifli Abdul Razak and Noordin's wife, Puan Sri Shamsiah Md Hashim.

A special forum featuring Noordin's many achievements in life was also held.

Besides Jawhar, the other panellists were NSTP group editor-in-chief Datuk Hishamuddin Aun and Bernama chairman Datuk Mohd Annuar Zaini.

In her speech, an emotional Shamsiah thanked the Government, Isis and USM for honouring her husband. Noordin, a former NSTP group editor-in-chief, died

on Dec 29 last year at the age of 61.

Meanwhile, Jawhar described Noordin as an extraordinary and exemplary individual.

Hishamuddin remembered Noordin as the "father of modern journalism". "The NST has certainly come a long way since Noordin introduced the bold, bright and breezy concept," he said.

Mohd Annuar described Noordin as a humble man who always wanted to help others. "He always encouraged me to write and said he looked forward to seeing my articles."