

600 to attend Asian Social Psychology Conference at UMS

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KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) is the first Malaysian university selected to host the Asian Association of Social Psychology (AASP) Conference.

The conference, to be held on July 25-28, is the seventh. It was previously hosted by universities in Hong Kong, Japan, Taiwan, Australia, The Philippines and New Zealand.

"It is a great honour for UMS to host an international conference where more than 500 delegates from abroad are expected to take part," Seventh AASP co-chairperson Associate Professor Dr Rosnah Ismail said.

She told reporters at UMS here yesterday that 104 participants from Malaysia are also expected to attend the biennial conference, with the theme "Global Issues and Challenges in a Changing World".

She said the delegates will come from Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, England, Ghana, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Korea, Macau, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, USA, UK and Malaysia.

Dr Rosnah said AASP, which was established in 1995, focuses on promoting the development of social psychological research and its application in Asia-Pacific.

She said it is also aimed at providing opportunities for students to pursue education and career in social psychology, besides serving as an academic forum for social psychologists from the Asia Pacific rim.

One of the main aims of AASP is to give priority to concerns for the development of Asian social psychology, which hinges on cooperative interplay between cross-cultural, indigenous and cultural psychology.

She said AASP's objectives include enhancing in-depth research on Asian social psychology, its current status and future direction among the various Asian societies.

"The conference strives to promote active dialogues and debates among academics, researchers and social activists, who are at the cutting edge of discovery in this ever increasing acceptance by society on the importance of social-psychology vis-a-vis dynamic human growth," she said.

Dr Rosnah said the conference secretariat is presently drawing up the programme proper, arranging the line-up of about 415 oral presentations of conference papers and about 200 poster presentations.

She said seven speakers have been invited to deliver their respective keynote addresses. They include Prof Emeritus Datuk Dr Abdul Halim Othman (UMS), Prof Dr Fathali M Moghaddam (Georgetown University, USA), Prof Dr Gian Vittorio Caprara (University of Rome, Italy) and Prof Dr Ramadhar Singh (National University of Singapore).

The other speakers are Prof Dr Khalijah Md Salleh (Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia), Prof Dr Cristina Montiel (Ateneo de Manila University, Philippines) and Prof Dr Mahmood Nazar Mohamed (National Anti-Drugs Agency, Malaysia).