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# 'LIBRARIES RELEVANT'

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But they must evolve to meet information needs of society, says minister

NOR AIN MOHAMED RADHI  
KUALA LUMPUR  
ainradhi@nst.com.my

**L**IBRARIES are still relevant despite digital information and social media challenges, said Tourism, Arts and Culture Minister Mohamaddin Ketapi.

He said libraries must evolve to meet the information needs of society.

"In fact, from the ministry's point of view, libraries are important cultural and tourism institutions, which are two complex

and layered fields of modern civilisation. Both sectors are known to have positive effects on social development.

"Through digitalisation, libraries contribute to the progress of social development based on knowledge and run by digital technology," he said during the official opening of 84th International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) World Library and Information Congress yesterday.

Present were Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Dr Ali Hamsa, Deputy Tourism, Arts



Tourism, Arts and Culture Minister Mohamaddin Ketapi (fourth from right) opening the 84th International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) World Library and Information Congress in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. With him are Kuala Lumpur Mayor Tan Sri Mhd Amin Nordin Abd Aziz (right), Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Dr Ali Hamsa (second from left) and IFLA president Gloria Perez-Salmeron (third from left). PIC BY NUR ADIBAH AHMAD IZAM

and Culture Minister Muhammad Bakhtiar Wan Chik, IFLA president Gloria Perez-Salmeron, IFLA secretary-general Gerald Leitner, National Library of Malaysia director-general Datuk Nafisah Ahmad and Kuala Lumpur Mayor Tan Sri Mhd Amin Nordin Abd Aziz.

Mohamaddin said the seven-day congress offered a good opportunity for delegates to interact with one another and gain new insights and views, especially

from those with diverse background and experiences.

"The congress will give Malaysia the opportunity to showcase the services and facilities of our libraries and share best practices in librarianship, information management and communications technology."

He said the congress, with the participation of more than 3,370 delegates from more than 111 countries, was expected to generate more than RM40 million.

In a special short video message, Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said: "With the rapid development in research and information technologies, libraries worldwide have changed not only their role and functions but in terms of contents and appearances."

"Let us work together to ensure that we conserve and preserve information that is freely available to everyone in line with the theme."