



GRAND OCCASION ... Rafidah launching the MPA yesterday with Petroliam Nasional Bhd president and chief executive officer Tan Sri Mohamad Hassan Marican (left). Looking on is Mariam.

Rafidah: Setting up of MPA timely

THE Malaysian Petrochemicals Association was launched yesterday by the Minister of International Trade and Industry Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz with the overall objective of meeting the wide and varied needs of the sector in the country.

Rafidah said the setting up of MPA was timely as it was in consonance with the rapid growth of the petrochemical industry.

"The first seven months of this year saw output of the plastic chemicals sector increased by 26.8 per cent as compared to 19.6 per

cent for 1995 as a whole.

"In addition the industry is evolving into an integrated sector and it is important that industry players adopt a common approach to issues that effect the industry.

"As Malaysia is becoming an important player in the regional petrochemical arena, MPA would be well-placed to ensure that there is coherence in the national stance in the marketplace," said Rafidah.

MPA president Mariam Rahimah Mukhtar said the Malaysian petrochemicals

sector has rapidly built an upward integration chain with the ultimate aim of value adding usage of Malaysia's abundant resources of crude oil and gas.

"The industry's expansion beyond the downstream plastic resins production calls for the need to form an organisation which would provide a broader coverage for the whole spectrum of petrochemical industries," said Mariam.

Mariam, who is Petronas' general manager of corpo-

rate planning & development division, also outlined the objectives as being an organisation to provide a forum to discuss and resolve common issues of concern in the petrochemical industry.

Among its objectives is to provide a focal point for the industry to liaise with the public and Government and to make recommendations on relevant issues.

Another objective is to advance the philosophy of responsible care, its implementation and compliance throughout the industry.