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Mahathir-Commonwealth ''

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SUBANG, June 7 (Bernama) -- The Commonwealth High-Level Appraisal Group's meeting, which has been postponed twice, will be held a day before the Commonwealth Summit in Harare in October, the Prime Minister said today.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is scheduled to chair the meeting in London on June 11 and 12, said the group would discuss the report on the Commonwealth's future prepared by senior officials.

The Commonwealth Secretariat in London had announced on Wednesday that the appraisal group's meeting was postponed because several heads of state could not attend.

The Commonwealth Summit in Harare, Zimbabwe is scheduled to be held from Oct 16 to 22.

+The postponement is not causing any problem as the officials have discussed the changes required of the Commonwealth and we will study their report on the eve of the Harare summit, + he told reporters here.-- more

♥07/06/13-29MST

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Mahathir-Commonwealth 2 Subang ''

+As India is without a Prime Minister while Australia and Canada cannot attend, therefore the meeting will not achieve its objectives,+ Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said when reporters approached him for comments on the postponement of the appraisal group's meeting.

The group was originally scheduled to meet early this year but the meeting was postponed because of the Gulf war.

The Prime Minister said he welcomed China's support for Malaysia's concept of an East Asia Economic Group.

It would be improper if China stayed out of a group such as the EAEG .

+Likewise it is illogical to set up an Asia Pacific Economic Council without China in it,+ he said.

The Prime Minister said the federal government would consider Pulau Pinang's request for financial aid to alleviate the flood problem in the state.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said Malaysia and Indonesia would discuss their respective claims over the Sipadan and Ligitan islands off Sabah waters but not openly.-- Bernama

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