

Dr M: EAEG needs region's full support

By OUR REPORTER

DATUK Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad says the proposed East Asia Economic Group (EAEG) needs the strong support of all nations in the region, including China, to help in its implementation and in strengthening its formation.

The Prime Minister stressed that this is because the EAEG was mooted for the betterment of all nations in the East Asian region.

"So it will not be good or appropriate for any country in the East Asian region to not support the proposal and not become a member of the group," he told reporters after opening the Sec-

ond Obstetrics and Gynaecology Congress at Subang Jaya yesterday.

He described China's statement of firm support for the EAEG proposal reported recently as a good sign for the establishment of the EAEG.

"We welcome their support for the setting up of the proposed group which will benefit all nations in the region.

"We need China's support for the proposed grouping as it is part of the region and it will not be logical if the republic did not join in the setting up of the

group, like in the establishment of Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec)," he added.

Indonesia's national news agency Antara recently quoted President Yang Shangkun of China as expressing his country's support for the EAEG which he said is vital in strengthening regional economic cooperation.

On the Commonwealth High-Level Appraisal Group meeting, which has been postponed twice, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir, who was scheduled to chair the meeting in London on June 11 and 12, said the meeting will now be

held a day before the Commonwealth Summit in Harare, Zimbabwe. The summit has been scheduled for October 16 to 22.

"India, Canada and Australia cannot attend the London meeting for various reasons and if we carry on with the meeting, it will not achieve any objective. The postponement is not causing any problem to the meeting as officials involved have discussed the changes needed and the future of the Commonwealth.

"We will study and discuss their report on the proposed improvement and changes at the meeting," he added.