

Earth summit: PM expected to lead team

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is expected to lead a delegation of about 50 members to the Earth summit in Rio de Janeiro next month. Science, Technology and Environment Minister Law Hieng Ding said tonight.

He said among those in the delegation would be Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Sarawak Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud, Member of Parliament for Pasir Mas Ibrahim Ali, MP for Ampang Jaya Ong Tee Keat and MP for Padang Terap Datuk Dr Afifuddin Omar.

Also in the delegation will be four representatives from the Penan tribe.

The full list of delegation would be announced on Thursday. Law told reporters after hosting a dinner for Pressmen and officials involved in the recently concluded Second Ministerial Conference of Developing Countries on Environment and Development.

On the Kuala Lumpur

declaration adopted by 55 countries at the conference here between April 22 and 29, Law said he had yet to receive a report from permanent representative to the United Nations Tan Sri Razali Ismail who had earlier this month presented it to the Group of 77 and China in New York.

"I'm hoping to receive the report soon," he said.

The declaration sought to present a stronger stand of the South countries on environment issues to be discussed at the Rio summit.

Earlier in his speech, Law said the media played an important role to uphold the country's image especially in highlighting issues on environment conservation.

"Malaysians have the responsibility to conserve the environment to make the world a better place to live for everybody.

"And it is the Press' responsibility to highlight these issues to ensure that our efforts were not misinterpreted by certain quarters," he said.