

We'll only sign what is good at summit, says Dr M

By K.P. Waran

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. — Malaysia will only sign conventions at the Earth summit in Rio de Janeiro which are not ambiguous and of benefit to Malaysia and other developing nations.

Prime Minister **Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad** said today that it was too early to announce which conventions Malaysia would sign since the Malaysian delegation was still in the process of studying all the conventions.

"If the conventions are written in an ambiguous manner without specifying what actions would be taken then they are of no use even if we sign them," he told reporters after witnessing a signing agreement between Sime Darby Tyre Technology Centre and Sumitomo Rubber Industries of Japan.

Asked to comment on news reports that the United States had indicated that it was not interested in financing some of the programmes, he said if countries which had the means did not want to finance programmes planned by the summit then it would indeed be difficult for smaller countries to do so.

On the convention on global warming and biodiversity, which the United States has refused to sign, Dr Mahathir said:

"The convention is also being studied and the Government wants it to be meaningful.

"For example, we find that in the areas of climate change there are no specific programmes to reduce global warming," he said.

When asked whether Malaysia was confident that the Earth Summit would bring about positive results, he said: "That is our hope."

On the statements by some non-governmental organisations (NGOs) that Malaysia was a "trouble-maker" at the Earth Summit, he said Malaysia had the right to do what it thought was right.

He said that not all NGOs felt the same way, adding that it was not possible to please everyone.

Earlier, when speaking at the signing ceremony, Dr Mahathir said the joint venture between Sime Darby Tyre Technology Centre and Sumitomo Rubber Industries was a significant case of technology transfer from a major industrial company of the developed nation to a company from a developing nation.

He commended Sumitomo Rubber Industries for its far-sighted and generous

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It's an ideal venture, says Dr M

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approach in the technology transfer arrangement and added that goodwill was essential if the arrangement was to be successful.

"I understand that the Sime Darby Group is bringing three tyre factories from two Asean countries into the agreement and, in addition, offers the prospect of practical working experience for those involved in manufacturing ultra-large natural rubber tyres for earth-moving equipment.

"This represents an ideal joint venture and includes a genuine transfer of technology involving natural rubber, a basic commodity resource from the developing world. It also combines joint research and development on the improvement of products for markets throughout the Asia-Pacific region," he said.

Also present were International Trade and Industry Minister **Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz**, Sime Darby Bhd chairman **Tun Ismail Mohamed Ali**, the company's group chief executive **Tunku Tan Sri Ahmad Yahaya** and Sumitomo Rubber Industries chairman **Shizuo Katsurada**.

Later tonight, the Prime Minister left for Rio de Janeiro via London to attend the Earth Summit.

He was accompanied by his wife **Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah** and senior officials from various Ministries.

He was seen off at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport by Deputy Prime Minister **Ghafar Baba**, Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister **Datuk Abu Hassan Omar**, Education Minister **Datuk Amar Sulaiman Daud** and Brazilian Ambassador **Sergio Damasceno Vierra**.

Dr Mahathir in his address at the summit on Saturday will speak on the need for all countries to share the responsibility of preserving the environment.