

Mahathir-globe
Prom AbdulRahman Sulaiman

② TTY overseas.

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TASHKENT, March 31 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad tonight called for a global consolidation in the next century which Malaysia believed could be achieved through consensus and consent.

He said this was important as global fragmentation brought only danger to the planet.

Speaking at a dinner hosted in his honour by Uzbekistan President Islam Karimov here, the Prime Minister said the national and international challenge at the turn of the 20th century was largely to harmonise global, regional and national structural changes.

"There must be global consolidation in the next century since global fragmentation brings only danger to our planet," he said.

In this regard, he said, Malaysia had supported the United Nations at every turn. This was because it believed that the UN system provided appropriate mechanism for creating a more equitable world. -- more

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It was also vital for all countries to act in concert to ensure that it would serve this purpose, he said.

Dr Mahathir said that while Malaysia welcomed unity in the community of the nations in the political arena in the immediate past, making possible settlement of several long-standing conflicts in South Africa, Cambodia, Afghanistan, Angola and Somalia, Malaysia could not but be disturbed at recent apparent failure of resolve at coping with new conflicts no less deserving international attention as represented by the tragedy in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

At no time had the world witnessed such blatant violations of human rights and yet failed to extend meaningful help, he said.

In the economic sphere, the prime minister said the world saw the same disturbing failure of resolve at coping with the challenge of a more open global trading system beneficial for all.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia was very concerned about this because although it was relatively a small country it was nevertheless a substantial trading nation. -- more

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"Our prosperity depends on our trading relations with other countries all over the world, both large and small. Much benefit is derived from trading relations between countries," he said.

The prime Minister said it was for this reason that, Malaysia had endeavoured to open trading relations with as many countries in as many regions of the world as it could.

On Uzbek-Malaysia relations, Dr Mahathir, now on three-day official visit here, said Malaysia was committed to strengthening economic and trade relations with the country on the basis of equality and mutual benefit.

He said important leaders of the Malaysian business community whom he had brought along with him would work to develop trade and investment cooperation with the business community here. -- Bernama