

Dr Mahathir outlines 'design

Dr. Mahathir's tribs.

Towards free

14 MAY 1993

From
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TOKYO, Thurs. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr **Mahathir** Mohamad today outlined what he thought should be the "design parameters" for the proposed East Asia Economic Caucus, one of its objectives being **to champion** the cause of **free and fair** trade.

"**First.**" he said "we should be concerned with both a regional and an extra-regional agenda.

In pursuit of the regional agenda, **East Asian** countries should meet regularly at ministerial level and discuss how they could enrich their economic co-operation for mutual benefit.

On the extra-regional agenda, they should discuss how they could act in con-

ference include Japanese Prime Minister **Kitachi** Miyazawa, Singapore Prime Minister **Goh Chok Tong**, New Zealand Prime Minister **James B. Bolger**, US Deputy Secretary of **Defence** Dr **William J. Perry** and former US Secretary of **State** Dr **Henry A. Kissinger**.

The other features of Dr Mahathir's seven-point parameters for the EAEC are:

● East Asian countries must be champions of free and fair trade. They must champion the cause of global trade liberalisation, **multilateralism**, an open **global** trading system, the Uruguay round of **GATT** talks and its spirit, principles,

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parameters' for EAEC
and fair trade

cert to enhance the chances for the success of the Uruguay round of GATT talks, the perpetuation of the open global trading system and other "global public good".

Secondly, Dr Mahathir said with regard to both the internal and external dimensions, although trade is crucially important the East Asian countries should not confine themselves only to this.

"In East Asia especially, there is also much that can be done with regard to optimising joint development zones, investment, technology, tourism, even labour flow," he said.

"The areas for co-operation - privatisation to infrastructure development - are too many to enumerate."

Dr Mahathir said this in his keynote address at the New York-based Asia Society's conference on **Asia's Role in the Changing World Order** held at the Okura Hotel here.

The speakers at the three-

rules and regulations;

- East Asian countries must champion the cause of open regionalism;

- they must seek to contribute to a sense of security and well-being on the part of all the economies of East Asia, and,

- all scheme of co-operation must be founded upon the principles of mutual benefit, mutual respect, egalitarianism, consensus and democracy.

Elaborating on his concept of "open regionalism", Dr Mahathir said if East Asian countries agreed to do something on regional trade, they must ensure that no new or higher measure of protection and discrimination be introduced against those outside the region.

"The present levels of real protection and discrimination should be pressed down even lower," he said.

"No economy should ever be required to raise its levels of protection and dis-

crimination to some higher common, regional level."

Dr Mahathir said East Asian countries must not be inward-looking. Their economies should continue to be outward-oriented and the whole world must be their marketplace.

The East Asian regional market must be increasingly open to other countries.

Dr Mahathir said even as the EAEC pursued these ends "we should ensure that we are not confrontationalist, that we are not bullied anti-intimidated, that we do not damage Asean, APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation), the South Pacific Forum and other established processes, that we do not allow others

to divide the Pacific, Asean or East Asia, and that we are not cowed from speaking out against racism, exclusivism and attempts to create closed trading blocs".

He said it was fundamental that East Asian countries should not shut others out of the region.

"This will be such a stupid

thing to do that those who accuse us of wanting to do this must be somewhat feeble of mind," he said.

"Or, they must think that we are feeble-minded.

"Instead, for our own national and regional interests, we must seek the fullest engagement of all the best companies and all the

most important economies of the world within our region."

Dr Mahathir said Asean was now working out the details and the modalities and will decide on what form the EAEC would take.

"As you know, Asean decides by consensus. Malaysia is only one of six members," he added.