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92
MALAYSIA DOES NOT SEE APEC SUMMIT ADEQUATE TO RESOLVE PROBLEMS, PM

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 15 (Bernama) -- Malaysia does not feel that the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in the United States is meant to resolve the world's economic problems, Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, said.

"I don't think it is an exercise trying to resolve economic problems and that is why I have decided not to go," he said at a dialogue with participants of the international conference on +Malaysia: Powerhouse of the 90's+ here today.

The summit of the 15-member countries grouping will be held in Seattle on November 19 and 20.

Dr. Mahathir said that there was no proper agenda at the summit and he did not think that the short meeting was sufficient to resolve the multifarious problems in the world economy.

He, however, expressed hopes that the summit would succeed and the fruits could be enjoyed together.

Malaysia will be represented at the APEC meeting by the Minister of International Trade and Industry, Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz.

APEC groups more than two billion people and accounts for 40 percent of world trade with a combined gross national product of US\$11 trillion.

The members of APEC are the six Asean member countries -- Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand --, Australia, Canada, China, Hong Kong, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, Taiwan, and the United States. -- Bernama