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Mahathir-EAEC

WE'LL FIND WAYS TO OVERCOME WASHINGTON'S REJECTION OF EAEC, MAHATHIR

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KUALA LUMPUR, June 15 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today Malaysia will find ways to overcome the United States rejection of the East Asia Economic Caucus (EAEC) concept.

He said: "We will take measures to find ways of overcoming it."

An American Embassy official in Tokyo was reported as informing the Japanese government on June 7 that Washington opposed the EAEC which it described as having negative effects on Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC).

This is the first time that the Clinton Administration had indicated that it opposed the EAEC. It adopted the wait-and-see attitude in the past.

Dr Mahathir also confirmed that Washington had made an official stance on the matter.--more

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On Japan, which had yet to state its stance on EAEC, he said: "We will continue with efforts (to persuade Japan to accept the EAEC)...it's upto them."

A foreign news agency quoted the official at American Embassy in Tokyo as saying today that Thailand, present Asean chairman, and Brunei, this year's Asean-American dialogue chairman, would be informed of the Washington's stance on the matter as soon as possible.

According to the report, Washington's stance in opposing the EAEC was informed after Asean officials briefed the U.S. government during the Asean-American dialogue in Washington last month.

The meeting was held for the Asean officials to present a clear picture on the EAEC and to submit a policy paper on the proposal.--Bernama

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