

PM to attend Denmark world summit

By Tengku Sariffuddin

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will attend the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen, Denmark, next month.

The UN-sponsored conference, scheduled for March 6 till 12, is to pool the resources of the various international agencies, governments and Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) in a joint effort to overcome social problems such as poverty, unemployment and lack of social integration.

It is biggest such conference on social development to be organised by the UN.

About 100 heads of states and governments are expected to attend the summit.

Representatives and observers from UN agencies, NGOs and professional organisations are also attending the conference.

The Economic Planning Unit (EPU) said in a statement today that the conference would be opened by Denmark's Queen Margrethe II on March 6.

It will be followed by the Senior Officials Meeting (SOM), which will draft the declaration and plan of action to be adopted by the heads of states and governments at their meeting on March 11 and 12.

Dr Mahathir will address the heads of government and state meeting on the first day.

The Prime Minister will be accompanied by Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, National Unity and Social Development Minister Datuk Napsiah Omar, Rural Development's Parliamentary Secretary Datuk Ibrahim Ali and senior Government officials.

The statement said preparatory meetings on the declaration and plan of action, which started in January,

Malaysia to play active role in summit

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were in the final stage.

It said Malaysia, which was represented by its Permanent Representative to the UN Tan Sri Razali Ismail and officials from the various agencies, took an active part in the discussions.

Malaysia has prepared a report, *Poverty Eradication, Expansion of Productive Employment and Social Integration in Malaysia, 1971-1994*, as requested by the conference's secretariat.

It outlines Malaysia's achievements in reducing poverty and unemployment, and strengthening of national-integration.

The statement said Malaysia would play an active role in the conference to ensure the contents of the declaration and plan of action were consistent with Malaysia's interests and G77 countries.

In this respect, the Malay-

sian delegation will highlight the country's success in tackling poverty, unemployment and enhancing social integration for the benefit of other countries.

The declaration is expected to focus on nine major commitments, among others, to create and enable economic, political, social, cultural and legal environment to allow the people to achieve social development.

A commitment towards eradicating poverty in the world through decisive national actions and international co-operation as an ethical, social, political and economic is imperative for humankind.

The plan of action will provide a guideline for national governments, international agencies and other parties on how to carry out social development and to overcome social problems.

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