

# Women entrepreneurs to discuss issues with PM

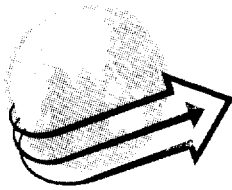
SOME 500 participants at the 43rd International Congress of the World Association of Women Entrepreneurs will get to discuss various issues with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The Prime Minister is scheduled to address the six-day conference on Sept 7 and participate in a dialogue session later. The conference opens on Sept 5.

Association of Bumiputera Women in Business and Professions, Malaysia (Peniagawati) president Maznah Hamid said the congress, being held here for the first time, would provide an opportunity for local entrepreneurs to network with their counterparts overseas.

Representatives from the Permodalan Usahawan Nasional Bhd (PUNB), Malaysian Industrial Development Authority (Mida), the Finance Ministry and the Ministry of International Trade and Industry would be on hand to assist participants keen in forming joint ventures, she told a Press conference in Petaling Jaya on Thursday.

The conference, with the theme "Moving Forward — Business Opportunities and Challenges in the 21st Century", is organised by Peniagawati, an affiliate of the



World Association of Women Entrepreneurs (FCEM).

The FCEM has over 30,000 members worldwide. The theme was chosen in view of the intense globalisation of world economies.

Maznah said Peniagawati, which joined FCEM six years ago, has been lobbying to be the host of this annual gathering of international entrepreneurs for the last three years.

Among the speakers invited are Farrell Co chairman Larry C. Farrell, Deutsche Bank Capital Market (Asia) vice-president Professor Kenneth S. Courtis, and Ms Paddy Schubert Sdn Bhd managing director Paddy Bowie.

Farrell is due to talk on "Preparing for the World in the 21st Century", Courtis on "Threats to Trade and Business" and Bowie on "Doing Business in a Different Culture".

A two-day trade exhibition, starting on Sept 7, will also be held in conjunction with the conference.

Maznah said the pre-arranged "Business Matching Programme" and the Peniagawati Entrepreneurs Award will be the highlights of the event.

"The database on business activities and business interests of the participants for the 'Business Matching Programme' is being compiled by PUNB and the Malay Chamber of Commerce and Industry," she said.

More than 200 participants have confirmed participation in the "Business Matching Programme".

Founded in 1976, Peniagawati has over 350 members, with branches in Kuala Lumpur, Selangor, Kelantan, Terengganu and Sabah. Membership will be increased to 600 when it opens branches in other States.

Most of the members own and manage their own businesses, while others hold middle to senior management positions in the public and private sectors.

Those interested in attending the conference, can contact Asian Strategy and Leadership Institute (Asli) at tel 03-7317775 or fax: 03-7314758/9. — BT