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Mahathir-Teleport

DR MAHATHIR IS THE MAIN SPEAKER AT WORLD TELEPORT ASSEMBLY

By: Tham Choy Lin

TOKYO, May 12 (Bernama) -- Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will be the main speaker at the opening of the World Teleport Association (WYA) annual assembly here tomorrow.

He is scheduled to deliver the commemorative address in the afternoon before an international audience of 1,000, including 200 foreign delegates, at the start of the four-day affair at the Tokyo International Exhibition Centre.

A brief in the conference programme describes Dr Mahathir as being very active on the world stage and respected for his leadership both within Asia and around the world.

It also says that his deep understanding of Japan has been widely noted.

The commemorative address marks the start of Dr Mahathir's six-day working visit to the Japanese capital. He is scheduled to arrive tomorrow morning.

An official of the conference, dubbed Teleport '96 Tokyo, said an hour had been set aside for Dr Mahathir's speech, in English, that will be simultaneously translated into Japanese and partially into French.

Among the other guests will be Japanese Post and Telecommunications Minister Ichiro Hino, WTA chairman emeritus Tadayoshi Yamada and Governor of Tokyo Yuko Aoshima.

The WTA, formed 12 years ago, has 110 members from corporate and government organisations involved in the development of a teleport which is an integrated facility that provides its users with fast, convenient access to advanced telecommunications, both short- and long-distance, through satellites, fibre optics, microwave and other networks.

Dr Mahathir's address will be followed by a keynote speech from Tokyo Electric Power Company Inc chairman Sho Nasu, who also heads the Telecommunications Council of the Post and Telecommunications Ministry of Japan.

The teleport conference is supported by an impressive list of major Japanese corporations and government agencies. Its organising chairman is Tokyo Chamber of Commerce and Industry chairman Kosaku Inaba.

Dr Mahathir will tour the Tokyo Business Show '96 and Tokyo Teleport Building after making his address. The Tokyo Business Show is held concurrently with the teleport conference and is Japan's largest general exhibition of the latest in office, information processing and communications technologies.

The prime minister has taken a personal interest and is in the forefront to establish Malaysia as a regional telecommunications centre. He is chairman of the National Information Technology Council (NITC).

The teleport concept is being considered for Putrajaya, the new federal government administrative capital that will be equipped with the latest information technology and infrastructure.

During his visit here, Dr Mahathir is scheduled to make keynote speeches at a presentation of Malaysia's Multimedia Super Corridor project sponsored by Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corporation and at an international conference on the future of Asia organised by Nihon Keizai Shimbun.

He will also tour several manufacturing industries including Isuzu Motors Ltd and Kawasaki Steel Corporation. -- BERNAMA

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