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Apec-capsule

DR MAHATHIR TO PEN THOUGHTS IN TIME CAPSULE

By: Yong Soo Heong

MANILA, Nov 20 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will have an opportunity to place his thoughts on how he perceives Malaysia will fare in the year 2010 in a time capsule when he attends the Apec Summit in Subic on Monday.

He will join 17 other leaders of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum to write and sign their statements separately on parchment paper.

The statements may be handwritten by the leaders or prepared by calligraphers. English translations of the statements will be provided if they are written in other languages.

The leaders will have the option of writing an explanatory note on the significance of their statements.

The time capsule will be in the form of a treasure chest which will be placed in the Philippine National Museum here for safekeeping, said Philippine foreign affairs under-secretary Frederico Macaranas.

The time capsule will be sealed and will be opened only in 2010 when the first phase of the Apec goal of free and open trade and investment would have been achieved.

Macaranas, who is also the chairman of the Apec senior officials meeting here, said the treasure chest was chosen because it symbolised a receptacle that carried barter goods in the famous Galleon Trade in the Manila-Acapulco (Mexico) route between the 1600s and 1800s.

"Such is a fitting symbol to Apec's efforts not only to reach out to the citizens of the future, but also to look back to a bountiful past in the era of the Galleon Trade which might very well be regarded as Apec's forerunner," he said.

The ceremony to place the time capsule will be held at the Meeting Room of the Leaders Hall in Subic Bay, culminating the Philippines' hosting of the Apec meeting this year. -- BERNAMA

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