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Apec-Ambassador

MANILA ALL SET TO HOST APEC MEETING, SAYS ENVOY

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 13 (Bernama) -- Manila is all set to host the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) forum in Subic Bay at the end of the month, Philippines ambassador to Malaysia Jose S. Brillantes said today.

He said all government machinery had been mobilised to ensure a smooth meeting from the aspects of security, transportation and media coverage.

"If strikes happen, they will be under control and the effects will be minimal...they won't affect the staging of Apec," he told a media briefing on Apec here.

He said all the leaders of the 18 economies in the grouping would be attending the meeting on Nov 25 which will be preceded by meetings of senior officials and ministers.

Apec, established in 1989, is made up of Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand and the United States.

"For the Philippines, this will be the culmination of a two-year preparatory work during which we have spent 247 million pesos," he said.

Brillantes said the amount invested to host the meeting was not high compared to the "trickle-down" effects to be gained later by his country.

He said the meeting would also be an opportunity for countries to hold bilateral talks with each other.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is scheduled to fly to the Philippines on Nov 23 to attend the meeting. -- BERNAMA

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