

17 AUG 1997

Conference

ABOUT 200 TO ATTEND PEMADAM INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 17 (Bernama) -- About 200 delegates from the Asia-Pacific region will attend the Third International Private Sector Conference on Drugs in the Workplace and the Community, near here, from Oct 4 to 6.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will open the conference, organised by the UN International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) in collaboration with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and Pemadam, at the Sunway Lagoon Resort Hotel.

Pemadam secretary-general Datuk Haji Jumaat Mohamed Noor, who is also the conference organising secretary, said today that papers on various aspects of the drug problem in the workplace and the community would be presented at the conference.

Topics to be covered include Tripartite and Multilateral Collaboration to Prevent Drug Abuse, Experiences and Innovations, Joining Forces for United Action, and Emerging Issues.

Among the Malaysian paper presenters will be Tun Hanif Omar, vice-president of Genting Berhad, Tan Sri Ghazali Shafie, senior Isis Fellow, and Zainal Rampak, president of the Malaysian Trades Union Congress (MTUC).

The foreign speakers will include Prof Dr Steve Allsop of Australia, Ric Durrant of UNDCP/ILO and Javeed Naseer of Pakistan.

Human Resources Minister Datuk Lim Ah Lek will close the conference.

Pemadam is seeking sponsors for the conference. A sponsorship sub-committee under Datuk Moehamad Izat Emir will be approaching firms and corporations for donations and contributions towards the conference.

Jumaat said private sector firms and non-governmental organisations which had programmes to assist drug addicts should send representatives to the conference to share their experiences with the other delegates.

He also said that in preparation for the international conference, a national-level symposium would be held on Sept 25 to familiarise the Malaysian delegates on the various issues relating to the drug problem, government policies and other activities of the related agencies.

The one-day national symposium, sponsored by Resorts World, will be held at Genting Highlands and attended by about 100 participants.

The symposium will feature briefings by representatives from government agencies involved in the fight against the drug menace, including the Home Affairs, Education and National Unity and Social Development ministries and the Royal Malaysia Police.

Participants will also have brainstorming sessions on the various issues to be addressed at the international conference. They will also hold a dialogue session with Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister Datuk Seri Megat Junid Megat Ayob, who is also the Pemadam president.

Private sector companies and non-governmental organisations wishing to participate in the conference can contact Jumaat or Datuk Haji Mustapha Ma, chairman of the Conference Technical Sub-Committee at tel:2541187/8 for further information. -- BERNAMA

RT JK