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Dialogue to strengthen ties with Kyushu

THE Fukuoka Dialogue to be held on March 28 will centre on the information era's role in forming strategic alliances and stronger bilateral ties between Malaysia and Kyushu, Japan, in terms of information and logistic networks.

The high-level meeting among the information technology business communities of Malaysia and Japan will include policy and decision makers, service providers, suppliers and corporate implementers in the region.

A keynote address entitled "The Digital Century: Opportunities for Mutual Collaboration Between Japan and Malaysia" will be presented by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who will be in Japan for an official visit.

The event will be opened by Japan's Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto at the Fukuoka Symphony Hall.

At a Press conference held in Petaling Jaya yesterday, Asian Strategy and Leadership Institute president Mirzan Mahathir said Malaysian companies, both big and small, could benefit from the Japanese experience in IT.

He said 1,800 participants were expected from Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Malaysia.

"Opportunities for Kyushu and Malaysia in the Multimedia Super Corridor will also be explored at the dialogue," Mirzan said.

The objectives of the one-day dialogue will be:

- * to promote closer economic and business relationships;
- * to encourage Japanese small and medium-sized industries to invest in Malaysia;
- * to enhance Japanese participation in Malaysia's MSC; and,
- * to facilitate strategic alliances and joint ventures between Japanese and Malaysian companies, with emphasis on IT.

Among the speakers invited are International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz, Penang Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon, Health Minister Datuk Chua Jui Meng, Education Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Sanusi Junid and Multimedia Development Corporation executive chairman Tan Sri Dr Othman Yeop Abdullah.

Jointly organising the event with Asli is Asia Business Centre and Nishinippon Newspaper Co Ltd.

Present at the Press conference was Asli director Michael Yeoh, ABC president Kenji Takimoto, minister and Japanese embassy deputy chief of mission T. Ozawa and Nishinippon bureau chief Takao Kawasaki.

The dialogue will be broadcast in real time through the Internet with the assistance of the Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corporation.

Asli, a non-profit organisation, will not be charging an attendance fee for the dialogue but reservations must be made early.

For information, contact Rena Chang at Asli, Level 14, Menara SungeiWay, Jalan Lagun Timur, Bandar Sunway, 46150, Petaling Jaya, tel 03-731 7775 or fax 03-7314758/59.

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