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Dr M to attend business forum

THE Asian Strategy and Leadership Institute (ASLI) is organising a private sector salute to Asean incorporating an Asean business leaders forum on December 13 to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the association.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will deliver a keynote address entitled "The Future of Asean" and hold a dialogue with participants at the forum.

Datuk Michael Yeoh, the executive vice-president of ASLI and the event co-chairman, said the private sector salute to Asean brings together business and government leaders to discuss the future challenges and prospects of Asean.

"It will also promote networking among businessmen and entrepreneurs from the region. More importantly, it will focus on the critical issues facing the region as it grapples with the market turmoil.

"It will be a timely meeting of the minds to discuss what needs to be done to put the Asean countries back on the growth track," he said in a statement released in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Foreign government leaders who will be attending the forum include China's vice-premier and foreign minister Qian Qichen, Philippine Foreign Secretary and Asean Standing Committee chairman Domingo Siazon Jr, Thai Foreign Minister Surin Pitsuwan and Singapore Trade and Industry Minister Lee Yock Suan. Local speakers include International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Multimedia Development Corp chairman Tan Sri Dr Othman Yeop Abdullah, International Trade and Industry Ministry secretary-general Tan Sri Asmat Kamaluddin.

Among the private sector participants are: Arab-Malaysian Group chairman Tan Sri Azman Hashim, Singapore Confederation of Industries secretary-general Derrick Low, Bakrie Group Indonesia chairman Aburizal Bakrie, Federation of Thai Industries chairman Chokcha Aksaran and Makati Business Club president Ricardo Romulo.

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