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Draft regulations on currency trading ready

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SINTOK, Sat. - The draft regulations on international currency trading prepared by Malaysia has been completed and will be discussed at the Asean Finance Ministers' Senior Officials Meeting in Manila next week.

Deputy Finance Minister Datuk Dr Affifuddin Omar said today the draft would be improved and amended at the SOM before it is submitted for deliberation at the Asean Finance Ministers' Conference in Kuala Lumpur early next month.

The two-day conference from Dec 1 would be attended by the Finance Ministers of Asean dialogue partners like Japan, Australia, South Korea and Canada as well as G-15 members.

International Monetary Fund managing director Michel Camdessus is also scheduled to attend the conference.

Speaking to reporters after opening a seminar on Budget 98 at Universiti Utara Malaysia, Affifuddin said the draft which comprise two aspects - regulations in creation of hedge funds and transparency in currency trading - would be presented at the SOM by Bank Negara Governor Tan Sri Ahmad Mohd Don.

"This is to get the views and suggestions of Asean members. The proposal to regulate currency trading is on the main agenda of Asean as several Asean countries have been badly hit by attacks on their currency by speculators," he added.

Affifuddin said IMF had asked Malaysia to prepare a draft to regulate currency trading after Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad made the proposal, following the devaluation of the Thai bhat and Indonesian rupiah.

He said Asean members fully supported Malaysia's proposal to regulate currency trading.

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