

20 JUL 1997

Asean-Officials

OFFICIALS, JOURNALISTS ARRIVE FOR ASEAN MEETING

KUALA LUMPUR, July 20 (Bernama) -- Senior officials from seven Asean member countries began arriving here today, ahead of the two-day Asean Ministerial Meeting (AMM) which starts on Thursday.

Those arriving today include top foreign affairs officials Lim Jock Seng of Brunei, Rodolfo Severino (Philippines), Kishore Mahbubani (Singapore), Saroj Chavanaviraj (Thailand), Nguyen Manh Hung (Vietnam) and Witjaksana Soeganda (Indonesia).

They will be involved in the senior officials meeting and the Asean Standing Committee meeting tomorrow.

The AMM is scheduled to be opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Meanwhile, preparations for the AMM are in full swing as other delegates and journalists began to converge here for the meeting.

The 450-room Sunway Lagoon Resort Hotel in Petaling Jaya, near here, the venue of the AMM, is a hive of activities as all those involved, from the hotel staff to Wisma Putra officials, busy themselves with last-minute preparations.

Asean Secretary-General Datuk Ajit Singh expressed his satisfaction after inspecting the media centre set up at the hotel.

Complaints of difficulty in finding accommodation abound as hotels within a five-kilometre radius of the resort hotel are reported to be full.

Meanwhile, an initial figure of 800 local and international journalists is expected to cover the event.

They come from as far away as the Netherlands, United States and France as well as from countries in the region.

Representatives of major news organisations like CNN, BBC TV, Washington Post, The Economist and Time Magazine are also in town.

-- BERNAMA

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