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PM to open Asean finance ministers' meeting on Dec 1

ASEAN's nine ministers of finance and their senior officials will gather in Kuala Lumpur from December 1-3 for the 30th Anniversary Asean Conference and Exhibition on Finance.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will deliver the keynote address and officially open the conference and exhibition on December 1, conference's organiser Asean Business Forum said yesterday.

The conference, organised in cooperation with the Asean Secretariat, is themed "Asean Financial Initiatives For The 21st Century".

It is the highest level ever conference on finance in the region.

Asean secretary-general Datuk ajit Singh, in his message, said the conference and exhibition "are unique in that they are probably the first major Asean financial events of their kind to be held with the endorsement and participation of the Asean finance ministers.

"Considering the recent crisis in the Asean currency markets, the conference will be particularly relevant to policymakers who have to deal with the challenges of globalisation in the financial services sector.

"I am also confident that the conference will provide an ideal opportunity for senior government policymakers and executives of financial institutions in Asean to exchange views and formulate new areas of cooperation to further develop Asean financial markets."

Apart from the nine Asean finance ministers and finance officials, senior representatives from international organisations, such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank as well as high-level executives, are confirmed speakers at the the conference.

Among the topics are "The Road Ahead: Smooth Or Rocky?"; "Euro 1999: Implications For Global Economic Growth And Financial Market Stability"; "Risk Return Profiles Of asean Economies"; and "Minimising Risks, Maximising Returns In Asean".

The "Asean strategic partnerships in banking and finance" exhibition showcases the banking and finance services of the Asean region with exhibitors having the opportunities to portray their financial products and service packages, expertise and technology to a high-powered and specific audience.

Those seeking more information on the conference and exhibition can contact the Asean Business Forum Secretariat at 03-241 9511 or at its e-mail, admin@aseanbf.po.my.

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