

16/12/1997

(Prime minister Datuk Seri ... )

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said "people are free to interpret" the Asean Plus Three meeting between the nine leaders of the Association of South-East Asian nations (Asean) and the leaders of China, Japan and South Korea.

"It is obvious that the members of the Asean Plus Three coincide with the proposed members of the East Asia Economic Caucus (EAEC). If you want to call it that, you can do so. I am not calling it the EAEC or the East Asian Economic Group," he said in response to a question as to whether the meeting is an EAEC meeting.

This is the first time Asean is meeting its north-east Asian counterparts either formally or informally.

(END)