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Private sector in Asean roundtable

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. - The four-day Private Sector Salute to Asean conference which began yesterday will feature a special Asean Economic Minister's roundtable on Asean 2020 and a CEO panel on Entrepreneurship Challenges in Asean tomorrow.

The roundtable session themed Beyond the Asean Free Trade Area, will be attended by International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz, her Singaporean counterpart Lee Yock Suan, Thai Minister of Commerce Dr Supachai Panitchapakdi and Indonesian Minister of Trade Tunky Ariwibowo.

Participants in the CEO panel are Entrepreneur Development Minister Datuk Mustapa Mohamed, the Asean Chambers of Commerce and Industry president Aburizal Bakrie, chairman of the Makati Business Club, Philippines, Ricardo Romulo, director of the Ometraco Group, Indonesia, Tan Bien Kiat, Singapore-based Booz-Allen & Hamilton vice-president Ian Buchanan, the Fil-Estate Land Inc, Philippines, president Robert John Sobrepena and Samart Corporation Plc, Thailand, president and CEO Charnchai Jaruvastr.

There will also be panel discussions involving Asean Foreign Ministers and a business forum among Asean industrialists.

Themed Future of Asean Political Strategies and Regional Security Issues, the Asean Foreign Minister panel discussion will feature Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi (moderator), the Chinese Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas, the Philippines Secretary of Foreign Affairs Domingo L. Siazon, the Thai Foreign Minister Surin Pitsuwan and the Korean Foreign Minister Yoo Chong Ha.

The business forum themed Asean at 30: What Next for Business will feature among others National Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia president/Malaysia Airlines System chairman Tan Sri Tajudin Ramli and president of Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers Paul Low.

There will also be a special presentation on "Malaysia's Multimedia Super Corridor: Challenges and Opportunities for Asean Companies" by Multimedia Development Corporation Bhd chairman Tan Sri Dr Othman Yeop Abdullah.

The event, opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday, is staged in commemoration of the grouping's 30th anniversary.

Held in conjunction with the Asean Informal Heads of Government meeting, it is organised by the Asian Strategy and Leadership Institute and the Bangkok-based Brooker Group Ltd, with the support of the Asean Secretariat, the Asean CCI, the Asean Travel Association and the United States/Asean Business Council.

The historic occasion will bring together top-level business leaders from Asean and other parts of the world.

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