

17 NOV 1998
APEC-NEWS-DINNER
APEC LEADERS FETED AT GALA DINNER

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 17 (Bernama) -- Leaders of 21 Pacific Rim economies, who are gathered here for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) summit, attended a dinner hosted by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad tonight.

The gala dinner was held at the posh Mandarin Oriental hotel located near the world's tallest buildings, the Petronas Twin Towers, in the heart of the city.

The leaders include Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi, Indonesian President B.J. Habibie and US Vice-President Al Gore who has been strongly criticised by a broad spectrum of the Malaysian society for expressing support for street demonstrations in his remarks at a business dinner yesterday.

It was a black-tie affair with Habibie sporting his trademark songkok.

The two-day summit kicked off today with a dialogue between the leaders and the Apec Business Advisory Council (Abac).

Tomorrow, the leaders will adjourn to Cyberjaya, Malaysia's first intelligent city, for their customary retreat where discussions are expected to focus on, among other things, the Asian financial crisis and ways to strengthen the global trading system.

-- BERNAMA
MAM YBY