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APEC NEVER DOMINATED BY ANY SINGLE LEADER- GOH

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 16 (Bernama) -- Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong said today Apec is about the participation of members of 21 countries and it somehow has never been dominated by any single leader.

"It is the quality of ideas which counts," he told reporters after a bilateral meeting with his Malaysian counterpart Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

He was responding to a question whether the absence of US President Bill Clinton would reduce the significance of the Apec summit.

Clinton had decided to stay home to handle the Iraqi crisis. Vice president Al Gore would sit-in for Clinton.

"Of course some leaders are more charismatic and the press is more interested in them."

"Obviously, when we sit down, we are all equal," said Goh.

Goh met Dr Mahathir on the sidelines of the Apec Leaders summit beginning tomorrow.

-- BERNAMA

RA AAM