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Commonwealth Press Union meeting

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - Malaysia will host the Commonwealth Press Union's biennial conference themed The Eye of the Tiger and the editors' forum preceding it in October.

The conference, expected to be attended by over 150 delegates from the 53 Commonwealth countries, will be opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad. Commonwealth Secretary-General Chief Emeka Anyaoku will also address the conference to be held at the new Mandarin Oriental Hotel.

The editors' forum will be held at Universiti Sains Malaysia in Penang from Oct 21 to 23, and the conference in Kuala Lumpur from Oct 26 to 29.

CPU's executive director Mark Robinson said the decision to hold the two events at different venues was to enable the editors to see the attractions of Malaysia.

"The first editors' forum was successfully held in Capetown, South Africa two years ago and we decided to repeat it in Malaysia this year," he said at a Press conference at the National Press Club today.

For the conference, the opening day will focus on the problems and achievements of Southeast Asia including the economic situation, socio-political issues, the environment and information superhighway. The rest of the conference will see discussion on Press freedom and human rights, the Press union's future role, and the future of news and traditional media.

Its Malaysian section chairman Datuk A. Kadir Jasin said Malaysia was proud to host the conference for the first time.

"It's an important conference as it brings together the media of countries which have a shared history. The Press union is a component of the co-operation within the Commonwealth," said Kadir who is also New Straits Times Sdn Bhd group editor.

A major sponsor of the conference and forum is Malaysia Airlines which will provide free passage for 20 delegates from developing countries and special rates for the others.

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