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Delegates sign up for CPU biennial meeting

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. - About 170 editors and journalists from 43 countries began registering today for the four-day Commonwealth Press Union biennial conference that begins here tomorrow.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will deliver a keynote address on the first day of the conference touted as a major vehicle for the review and creation of communication strategies throughout the Commonwealth.

Eminent personalities like Commonwealth Secretary-General Chief Emeka Anyaoku, former Hong Kong Governor Chris Patten and New Zealand's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Don McKinnon will also deliver speeches.

Patten's speech is titled Managing Economies in Good Times and Bad while McKinnon's is Press Freedom and Human Rights within the Commonwealth - A Ministerial Perspective.

On the second day, delegates would split into two groups for sessions titled Reporting Under Repressive Regimes and Effective Lobbying for Press Freedom.

On the third day, there would be discussions on the future role of the CPU, a session titled The Future of News - Does the Digital Age Pose A Genuine Threat to Traditional Media and a visit to the Forest Research Institute of Malaysia.

Sessions on the final day include one titled Does Anyone Out There Listen To Us? - How To Get The Message Across by BBC special correspondent Sue Lloyd Roberts.

The aims of the CPU are:

- * to uphold the ideas and values of the Commonwealth;
 - * to promote, through the Press, understanding and goodwill among all members of the Commonwealth;
 - * to advance the freedom, interests and welfare of the Commonwealth's Press;
 - * monitoring and opposing all measures and proposals likely to affect the freedom of the Press in any part of the Commonwealth;
 - * working for improved facilities for reporting and transmitting news;
 - * promoting the training of all involved in the Commonwealth's Press;
- and,
- * to preserve the principles, ideology and purpose that has inspired the CPU through the years.

The welcoming address would be given by the chairman of the CPU Malaysian section and group editor-in-chief of the New Straits Times Press (M) Bhd Datuk A. Kadir Jasin and chairman of Council, CPU Lyle Turnbull.

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