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APEC-NEWS-MAHATHIR

DR MAHATHIR POSITIVE APEC LEADERS WILL DISCUSS CURRENCY CRISIS

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 10 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said he is positive leaders attending the Apec Summit here on Nov 17 and 18 will discuss issues on the currency crisis.

"I am not thinking about a concrete agreement but I am sure we will be discussing the issue very seriously," he said in a live interview with Cable News Network (CNN)'s Biz Asia segment tonight.

The Prime Minister was responding to host Lorraine Hahn's question on whether any concrete agreement will come out from this year's Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) Leaders' Summit.

Dr Mahathir said if at all the leaders cannot come to an agreement at the Summit, "each one of us will then be pushing the line whenever we meet in some international conference."

On certain leaders saying that they would not hold bilateral talks with him during the Apec Summit and whether he sees this as a set back for Apec and for Malaysia, Dr Mahathir said he did not think so.

"It is not possible for the host to meet 20 other heads of government.

"When I was invited to go to Seattle, I didn't go. Again that has not resulted in Apec breaking up," he added.

United States President Bill Clinton and Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien were reported to have said recently that they would attend the Apec Summit but would not hold bilateral meetings with Dr Mahathir. --

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