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ESTRADA ATTENDING APEC IN KUALA LUMPUR

MANILA, Oct 19 (Bernama) -- President Joseph Estrada will attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) leaders' summit in Kuala Lumpur, an official said today.

"The President is definitely going to Apec. In fact, I said so categorically that the President said that he intends to attend Apec," presidential spokesperson Jerry Barican told a press briefing.

He said that Estrada may also hold bilateral talks with Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"I am certain that during Apec, there will be bilateral talks scheduled with everyone, especially with the host country," Barican said.

"So I'm sure that Prime Minister Mahathir is going to meet with all the delegation heads," he said.

In a statement issued earlier today, Estrada welcomed Dr Mahathir's invitation for him to visit former Deputy Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim in prison.

He called it "good news" and "a good sign".

"Maybe, during the Apec meeting, I'll see if I can get an audience with Anwar," Estrada said.

-- BERNAMA

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