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Global meet to discuss timber industry trends

THE Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB) and the Malaysian Timber Council (MTC) is jointly organising an international timber conference in March, which will assess future business potential and opportunities in global timber trade.

The conference, the International Timber Conference '98, will formulate more effective global strategies for the industry and will serve as a platform for exchanging views and the networking of ideas and strategies.

According to a statement issued by MTIB, the conference is scheduled to be held from March 5-7.

It is being organised with the aim of bringing to attention pertinent issues and challenges in the timber industry while the world is moving towards the next millennium.

With the theme "Globalisation of the Timber Industry in the Next Millennium", the conference is expected to explore resulting opportunities arising from the issues and challenges identified.

It will enable participants to share experiences from different sectors of the industry on the latest developments and directions in the timber trade.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is scheduled to officiate and deliver a keynote address during the conference.

A total of eight papers and four panel discussions will also be presented by foreign and local industry leaders.

The speakers and panellists invited, include World Bank global forestry chief Jim Douglas, Food and Agriculture Organisation senior forestry trade analyst, Dr I. J. Bourke, International Tropical Timber Organisation executive director, Datuk Dr B. C. Y. Freezailah and Geneva-based International Trade Centre senior market development officer J. L. Albaladejo.

Others include Mr Geoffrey Pleydell of Woldingham UK, MTC Europe director Tham Sing Khaw, US International Wood Products Association chairman Carl Gade, Emirates Trading Agency senior management executive S. Fayaz Ahmad and Weyerhaeuse Co of US' director of materials technology Amar N. Neogi.

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