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Harvard Club events to address questions on economic turmoil

MALAYSIA has taken the lead, taken the bull by the horns and defied conventional wisdom in an effort to resolve the economic downturn.

It has outlined the strategies for economic recovery in the blue print, National Economic Recovery Plan, introduced capital controls and relaxed monetary and policies. Among others these policies and measures are aimed at insulating and stabilising the economy as well as to kick start it.

Many others including international and multilateral organisations, analysts and economists are infact now proposing remedies similar to those already adopted by Malaysia.

Why has Malaysia bucked the "conventional wisdom" and how effective are the controls? These are among the questions frequently raised by economists, entrepreneurs, analysts and decision makers. The Harvard Club of Malaysia aims to provide answers to these and many other questions relating to the economic crisis.

The Club is hosting two events focusing on the economic issues relating in Malaysia and the region. The president of the Harvard Club of Malaysia Tan Sri Ahmad Sarji said the sixth Prime Ministerial address on October 5 in Kuala Lumpur is titled "Management of an economy in crisis". The talk will be preceded by dinner.

Professor Robert J Barro of Harvard University will speak on "Asian growth and the ongoing financial crisis" on October 16.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will deliver the address and take questions from the floor. Ahmad Sarji disclosed that previous address by Dr Mahathir have also focused on timely and important issues. On previous occasions the topics covered included; Post 1990 - Economic Policy of Malaysia, A United Malaysian Nation by the Year 2020, Towards a Fully Moral and Ethical Society in Malaysia and Leadership Ideals for Malaysia.

Dr Barro is the Robert C Waggoner Professor of Economics at Harvard University. Among the books he has written include; Getting it Right: Markets and Choices in a Free Society; Macroeconomics: Modern Business Cycle Theory; and Money, Expectations and Business Cycles. He has also co-authored another book with Zavier Sala-I-Martin entitled: Economic Growth.

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