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APEC-NEWS-DOMESTIC

NOT RIGHT FOR APEC TO DISCUSS M'SIA'S DOMESTIC ISSUES

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 15 (Bernama) -- Apec is not made to discuss Malaysia's domestic issues nor appropriate for the grouping to talk about the issues, said New Zealand Foreign Minister Don Mckinnon.

He said there were a lot of other issues that can be talked about in the margins of the ministerial and bilateral meetings.

"No one can put a constraint on that," he told reporters during a break at the Apec (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation) ministerial meeting here today.

Mckinnon, who is also New Zealand's Trade Minister, was commenting on the call by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad not to turn Apec into a political forum.

On the Early Voluntary Sectoral Liberalisation (EVSL) Scheme, he said it was not a big issue for New Zealand but wanted commitments from all Apec economies.

He said Japan must show its commitments or others might follow suit.

Mckinnon, however, said he was optimistic of a consensus on the EVSL.

-- BERNAMA