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Over 200 expected at conference

THE four-day Commonwealth Press Union biennial conference in Kuala Lumpur beginning Monday will be attended by more than 200 editors and journalists, CPU executive director Mark Robinson said.

He told a Press conference the winner of the 1998 Astor Award for Press Freedom would also be announced.

The award is given to editors or journalists who have profoundly contributed to journalism and also those who have worked hard under difficult conditions in carrying out their duties, said Robinson.

The award will be presented by Unesco Freedom of Expression Unit director Alain Modoux.

Among those who will speak at the conference include Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who will deliver the keynote address on Monday and Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Chief Emeka Anyaoku.

Others are New Zealand Foreign Affairs Minister Don McKinnon, former Hong Kong Governor Chris Patten, former British representative to the United Nations Sir David Hannay and senior editors like Nazeem Howa of the Sunday Star in Johannesburg and Jonathan Fenby of the South China Morning Post.

Among the conference's key themes are managing economies in good times and bad, Hong Kong after the handover, press freedom and human rights in the Commonwealth, privacy and self-regulation of the Press and news in the digital age.

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