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PM to deliver keynote address, conduct dialogue

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will deliver the keynote address and conduct a dialogue with delegates at the opening and closing sessions of the upcoming International Conference on the Asian Financial Crisis.

The conference, to be held November 2-3, will bring together leading policymakers and financial leaders from around the world to discuss and debate Asian financial crisis.

To be held at the Mines Resort City's Palace of the Golden Horses, the conference is aimed at understanding the nature and degree of the economic contagion and how the international community could work with Asia to avert a further downward spiral.

A key issue will be the role and behaviour of international capital flows and exchange rate markets and the realities in the international capital and currency markets.

Another key discussion will focus on how to strike a balance between strengthening financial and capital market systems with the need for greater regional and international coordination to reduce the destabilising nature of capital flows and currency speculations.

Also to be explored will be the determining factors and conditions of Asia's recovery prospects, and the nature and degree of economic and market interdependence in a global economy.

The two-day conference will feature both international and local speakers and panelists who are economic and financial experts.

Among those who have confirmed their participation at the conference are; Professor Jeffrey Sachs of the Harvard Institute of International Development; Mr Stephen Taran managing director of Salomon Smith Barney Asia Pacific; Professor Jagdish Bhagwati, Arthur Lehman Professor of Economics and Professor of Political Science Columbia University; and Professor Peter Garber consultant to Deutsche Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

Malaysian speakers and panelists include; Tan Sri Francis Yeoh, Group Managing Director YTL Corp Bhd; Mr Martin Khor of the Third World Network; Datuk Zeti Akhtar Aziz Deputy Governor Bank Negara; and Raja Datuk Arshad Raja Tun Uda Executive Chairman Price waterhouseCoopers.

For further details of the conference, please contact Padhma at 03-293 6108, Rena/Sharon at 03-731 7775, Amy/Azlan at 03-706 4788.

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