

28 MAY 1998

PM TO MAKE WORKING VISIT TO JAPAN NEXT WEEK

KUALA LUMPUR, May 28 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will leave for a working visit to Japan on Monday to speak at two major conferences on East Asian economies and the future of Asia.

On June 2, he is scheduled to deliver a keynote address in Tokyo at the fifth symposium of the Institute for International Monetary Affairs, which is an affiliate of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Dr Mahathir will speak on "Revitalisation of the Japanese and East Asian Economies".

Participants attending the symposium will comprise ministers and top corporate leaders, including the IMF's deputy managing director, Stanley Fischer.

The prime minister is also expected to address the Nikkei Conference on June 4, which is themed "Future of Asia." Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto is also expected to attend the conference.

The Nikkei conference is held annually since 1995 and is aimed at deepening understanding between Japan and other Asian nations.

The financial and economic crisis affecting the region as well as the worrying state of the Japanese economy is expected to top the agenda of both the IMF symposium and the Nikkei conference.

Participants will discuss issues in Asia and share their visions on the future, particularly at a time when the region is grappling with an economic crisis where the likes of which had been unprecedented.

The regional economic crisis broke out last July following the attack on the Thai baht which then had a contagion effect on other currencies and economies, especially that of Thailand, Indonesia, the Philipines and Malaysia.

Dr Mahathir will return on June 5.

-- BERNAMA

MR SHY RM