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Debate between PM, Wolfensohn at Virtual C'wealth conference

Eirmalasang Bani

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and World Bank president James Wolfensohn are scheduled to debate at the Virtual Commonwealth conference, one of the plenary sessions in the third Multimedia Asia Conference and Exhibition (MMA '98).

Wolfensohn will take part from New York while Dr Mahathir will be at the Mines in Kuala Lumpur, where the four-day conference and exhibition will be held from September 29 until October 2.

European Commissioner for Industrial Affairs, Information Technology and Telecommunications Martin Bangemann will also take part in the video conferencing from the UK while Harvard University's dean of the John F. Kennedy School of Government Dr Joseph Nye will be speaking from Boston.

In Kuala Lumpur, Dr Mahathir will be joined by Mimos Bhd president and chief executive officer Tengku Datuk Dr Mohd Azzman Shariffadeen and Multimedia Development Corp (MDC) executive chairman Tan Sri Dr Othman Yeop Abdullah.

Moderator for the event is the Institute of Strategies and International Studies executive chairman Tan Sri Nordin Sopiee.

"The video conferencing attempt is said to be the first to be undertaken anywhere in the world and will be the highlight of the MMA '98," Energy, Telecommunications and Posts Minister Datuk Leo Moggie told reporters in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Tengku Datuk Dr Mohd Azzman, who is also the National Information Technology Council (NITC) secretary, said they hope to attract more than 20,000 visitors to the MMA '98.

NITC is the host and organiser of the MMA '98. Other co-organisers are Mimos Bhd, MDC and Telekom Malaysia Bhd.

The Virtual Commonwealth conference is a framework for dialogue on issues of governance in the Information Age.

The conference's theme is "Governance in an Internetworked World: Towards a Global Civilised Society".

Topics to be discussed will revolve around "Rights, Roles, Responsibilities and Relationships in Promoting Human Dignity and Socio-Economic Justice".

The guests to this Virtual Commonwealth conference will be by invitation only, and would include chief executive officers of companies participating at MMA '98 exhibition as well as conference and workshop delegates.

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