

21/10/1998

Poverty among rural women the theme of meeting

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - The Third International Steering Committee Meeting on Rural Women's Economic Advancement which began today, will revolve around the theme "Poverty Among Rural Women, Their Families and Communities".

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will open the meeting on Thursday. His wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, who is also ISC president for 1996-1998, is hosting the meeting.

Patron Queen Fabiola of Belgium, who arrived here today, will be among about 100 delegates from around the world attending the five-day event at the Palace of the Golden Horses.

Also present will be First Ladies and officials from the participating countries, including Malaysia, Belgium, Senegal, Jordan, Nigeria, Egypt, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco and Ecuador.

Representatives from international organisations such as the United Nations Development Programme, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the United Nations Population Fund, will also take part.

On the agenda will be discussions on:

- * the development and access to suitable technology for rural women;
- * managing and conserving the environment;
- * the implementation of micro and small-scale enterprises for rural women and their families; and,
- * mobilising women through government organisations, non-governmental organisations and the private sector (smart partnerships).

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