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Preparations for Apec summit in full swing

PREPARATIONS for the upcoming Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation Business Summit scheduled to take place from Nov 14 to 16 in Kuala Lumpur are progressing well.

Apec Business Advisory Council executive director Dr Shafiq Sit Abdullah yesterday described progress as "very positive".

About 1,500 top chief executive officers within Apec and non-Apec member countries have confirmed their participation at the Summit to be held at the Putra World Trade Centre in Kuala Lumpur.

Co-chairman of the organising committee for the Apec Business Summit Datuk Abdullah Mat Zaid said the summit would enable entrepreneurs to network.

He was addressing reporters in Kuala Lumpur yesterday after a signing ceremony to receive sponsorship worth US\$200,000 (RM840,000) from General Motors Corporation.

Singapore-based General Motors Asian and Pacific Operations (Pte) Ltd director of corporate communications and public policy David Jerome said that GM's contribution shows a strong commitment to the Apec and Abac processes, which allows for dialogue between communities.

The sponsorship package is divided into three categories, Platinum - worth US\$200,000; Gold - worth US\$50,000 and Bronze - worth US\$15,000.

According to Shafiq, between 15 and 20 local and foreign firms have indicated a strong interest to sponsor the event.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is expected to deliver a keynote address.

Ninety speakers have been slotted to speak at the summit, which is jointly organised by the Malaysia National Committee for Pacific Economic Cooperation, Pacific Basin Economic Council Malaysia Member Committee, the Asian Strategy & Leadership Institute and the Ministry of International Trade and Industry.

From Malaysia, the Abac members are Malaysia Airlines chairman Tan Sri Tajudin Ramli who is also chairman of Abac, Sime Darby Bhd group chief executive Tan Sri Nik Mohamed Yaacob and YTL Corporation Bhd managing director Tan Sri Francis Yeoh.

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