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C'wealth Press Union meet timely: Kadir

IT IS "timely" that the Commonwealth Press Union (CPU) biennial conference should be held in Kuala Lumpur, according to the union's Malaysian chapter chairman, Datuk A. Kadir Jasin, who is New Straits Times Press group editor.

"The conference is a good opportunity for media owners and newspaper editors to discuss the current regional economic downturn which is having an impact on the global scene," he told a press conference on the CPU in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Themed the "Eye of the Tiger", the conference will be held from October 26-29 at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel. It was last held in Cape Town two years ago.

It will be opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad while Commonwealth Secretary-General Chief Emeka Anyaoku will give the opening addresss.

About 200 delegates and observers will be attending the conference which will be preceded by the CPU Editors' Forum in Penang.

CPU executive director Mr Mark Robinson said, "The opening day of the conference will focus on problems and achievements in the region.

"The second day is traditionally dedicated to key issues of press freedom and human rights throughout the Commonwealth. Other sessions will include the CPU's future role and the future of the Commonwealth newspaper industry."

The conference is sponsored by major companies including Malaysia Airlines which is contributing air tickets worth RM71,000; the Mandarin Oriental Hotel group and The New Straits Times group.

The CPU has 750 members who are media representatives in Commonwealth countries. The union also organises training for its members.

According to Kadir, newspaper companies in Malaysia that are members of the CPU include the New Straits Times group, Utusan Melayu group, The Star group, Sin Chew Jit Poh, and Nanyang Siang Pau.

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