

10/11/1998

Students get to interview world leaders

Kamalia Abdullah

THIRTY students will interview world and corporate leaders attending the Apec summit to be held at the Putra World Trade Centre, Kuala Lumpur, from Nov 14 to 16.

Termed the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) - Virtual Trade Mission (VTM) Global Interview Session, the recordings will be done with different leaders from 9am to 3pm.

About 1,500 corporate leaders from 21 Apec member countries will be participating at the summit, discussing various issues, including the current financial crisis which is affecting the global scenario.

Some of the dignitaries expected to be interviewed include Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, US President Bill Clinton, President Eduardo Frei of Chile, US Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky, President Alberto Fujimori of Peru, Wang Xuebing, chairman and president of the Bank of China, Dr Jeffrey Khoo, chairman of China Trust Commercial Bank, Taiwan and Dr Victor K. Fung, chairman of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council.

The programme, over ntv7, is expected to run for an hour and an executive producer from VTM will also be involved in the editing process.

The students aged between 16 and 22 are from local and US institutions. An advanced team from VTM flew in from the US to help select students from local institutions.

They include students from the International School of Kuala Lumpur and young budding writers.

Apec's Business Advisory Council executive director Dr Shafiq Sit Abdullah said: "The Global Interview will clearly demonstrate that Malaysia, as chair of Apec 1998, is committed to the development of global community projects such as this.

"Future Apec summits will be able to look back upon the KL summit as one which inaugurated a genuine effort to build a community founded upon shared values across the Pacific. This new Pacific generation will be one of enlightened individuals, sensitive to the different values, rule of law, and traditional considerations of societies in the new global village."

He said the Global Interview will allow students from Malaysia and the West to sit together and talk to world leaders.

"Issues raised during the interview will be telecast to the US and other Apec economies through Pan-Am satellite," he said.

"We also expect some powerful questions to come in via the Internet and these will also be picked up to be posed to the leaders being interviewed."

Each candidate will be interviewed for about 10 minutes but some prominent figures like Barshefsky will be allocated 20 minutes.

VTM representatives accompanying the students will also be doubling as guidance counsellors and will be giving them a briefing about the themes of Apec and also background of the corporate companies and leaders so the students will get an idea of the questions they can raise.

Shafiq said: "For example, they can ask the leaders about unemployment or the environment and find out what is being done about it.

"The interview will be beamed to the Apec countries and will be the first time an interview of such a nature will be conducted in Malaysia."

ntv7, the anchor official channel for the local broadcast, will work

together with other local and satellite networks.

The programme will be distributed to Apec television networks local television.

The project will be co-ordinated from Malaysia and the US by a task force consisting of representatives from the Apec summit, Multimedia Development Corporation (MDC), VTM Foundation, Telekom Malaysia, ntv7, Malaysian and American students with technical assistance from the Ministry of Energy, Communications and Multimedia.

(END)