

31 JUL 1998

TI-Meeting

TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL TO HOLD AGM IN KL

KUALA LUMPUR, July 31 (Bernama) -- Transparency International (TI), a Berlin-based international coalition against corruption, will hold its annual general meeting here in September.

The meeting will be held simultaneously with an international conference focusing on Asia, organised jointly with the Malaysian Institute of Management (MIM) on Sept 12 and 13, TI Coordinator for Malaysia Tunku Abdul Aziz said in a statement today.

The conference on "Strengthening Integrity - The Challenges for Asia - A Global Agenda" will be opened by Anti-Corruption Agency (ACA) Director-General Datuk Shafee Yahaya.

TI President Dr Peter Eigen said the relationship between TI and Malaysia dated back to 1996 when the non-governmental organisation published its Corruption Perception Index.

"The index had been conceived with a view to encouraging governments to assess the performance of their integrity systems very carefully and Malaysia was the very first country to take up this challenge," he said in the same statement.

Dr Eigen said this was done by starting a national anti-corruption campaign, strengthening its legal system against corruption and bolstering both powers and the budgets of the ACA.

"I was struck, too, by the strong leadership of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his readiness to discuss a topic from which other leaders shy away," he said.

He said the emphasis should be put on the prevention of corruption rather than enforcement which should be the last resort when preventive measures failed.

Among the speakers of the conference would be the Attorney-General from India, Soli Sorabjee and Indonesia's social activist Prof Emil Salim.

--BERNAMA

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