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Umno Youth disappointed with failure to make stand on controls

IPOH, Fri. - Umno Youth is disappointed that the recently concluded Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation summit did not make any stand on the proposal to regulate the international financial system, its acting head Datuk Hishammuddin Hussein said.

"The reason given was that it was not a world forum. But whatever decision was not intended to bind the world.

"We are only asking them to make a stand."

He said although the countries concurred with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's call for some kind of regulation of the international financial system, they could not make a decision.

"I observe that Apec had made many statements and decisions although it does not represent the world," he said after meeting Perak Umno Youth exco members here today.

He said Umno Youth had also expressed the need to monitor the international rating agencies.

Hishammuddin said the rude and disparaging statements made by US Vice-President Al Gore and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright had made Malaysians "very, very angry".

They have used Apec which was supposed to be an economic forum for their political agenda.

"The US leaders were in the country only for two days.

"But they seemed to be experts on Malaysia's political situation, disregarded the peoples' sentiments and issued irresponsible statements," he said.

On the leadership camp for Barisan Nasional youth leaders in Ulu Kenas, Kuala Kangsar, he said it would equip the participants with the facts and information before they explained to people about the country's political and economic situation.

A total of 240 BN youth leaders including those from Sabah and Sarawak and overseas branches are participating in the four-day camp which began yesterday.

Dr Mahathir, who is BN chairman, is scheduled to close the camp tomorrow.

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