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ASIA-AFRICA-FORUM

AFRICA-ASIA BUSINESS FORUM FROM OCT 25 TO 29

KUALA LUMPUR, July 21 (Bernama) -- An Africa-Asia Business Forum (AABF) will be held here in October in an effort to promote linkages between African and Asian businesses.

The five-day business forum which will be held from Oct 25 to 29 aims to provide a platform for participants to exchange information, develop closer relationships and identify as well as negotiate new business deals with potential partners.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is expected to deliver the keynote address at the forum.

According to AABF consultant Datuk J Jegathesan, over 300 entrepreneurs and principal decision makers from more than 30 African and Asian countries are expected to participate in the forum.

During a briefing today, Jegathesan said AABF was initiated by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in collaboration with the Malaysian government, the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) of the World Bank Group and Malaysian South-South Corporation Bhd (Masscorp), and financed by the Japanese government.

He said, small and medium enterprises in Africa need to develop and strengthen their operations through linkages with established Asian counterparts who have the technical know-how and business experience.

Among countries expected to be represented at the forum are Egypt, Cameroon, Algeria, Libya, Mauritius, Botswana, Morocco, Swaziland and Tunisia.

Participants from various sectors like textiles, furniture and wood products, agro-processing, food and beverages, light engineering, medical supplies/pharmaceuticals, mining, building materials, communication, energy and financial services and electrical and electronics are expected to attend the forum.

Malaysia currently has business presence in Namibia, South Africa, Ghana, Mauritius, Tanzania and Zimbabwe. -- BERNAMA

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