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MBBC to hold maiden meeting in London on Mar 15

THE Malaysian British Business Council (MBBC), launched last year by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, will hold its maiden meeting in London on March 15.

Its executive director Datuk Michael Yeoh said the key objective of the MBBC is to attract more British investments to Malaysia, especially from among the small and medium-scale industries.

In a statement released in Kuala Lumpur yesterday, Yeoh said the council will also look at how to further enhance the close business relationship between Malaysia and the UK.

Yeoh, who is also the Asian Strategy and Leadership Institute (Asli) chief executive officer, said the MBBC will work to regain British confidence in the Malaysian economy.

At the meeting, Bank Negara Governor Tan Sri Ali Abul Hassan Sulaiman will brief members of the council on the Malaysian Government's response to the economic downturn.

Ali will explain various measures taken by the National Economic Action Council (NEAC) and brief British business leaders on the progress implementation of the NEAC.

British members of the Business Council, co-chaired by Standard Chartered Bank chairman Sir Patrick Giliam, include Admiral Plc executive chairman Clay Brendish; BICC Plc chief executive Alan Jones; British Petroleum Plc chief executive Bryan Sanderson; Cambridge University vice-chancellor Prof Sir Alec Broers; Prudential Plc chief executive officer Mark Tucker; and Vickers Plc chairman and chief executive officer Sir Colin Chandler.

Malaysian business leaders attending the meeting in London will be led by Asli president and Konsortium Perkapalan Bhd group executive chairman Mirzan Mahathir.

The group will comprise Antah Holdings Bhd group chief executive Tunku Tan Sri Imran; YTL Corp Bhd group managing director Tan Sri Francis Yeoh; Country Heights Holdings Bhd group managing director Tan Sri Lee Kim Yew; Kuala Lumpur Kepong Bhd executive chairman Datuk Lee Oi Hian; Hong Leong Group chairman Tan Sri Quek Leng Chan; Bank Bumiputra Malaysia Bhd chief executive officer-cum-executive director Datuk Abdul Aziz Othman; and Tan & Tan Developments Bhd chief executive officer Tan Lei Cheng.

In conjunction with the meeting, Asli and MBBC will hold a seminar on investment opportunities in Malaysia.

International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz is expected to deliver a keynote address at the seminar, which will be attended by British fund managers, business leaders and investment analysts.

Advser to Bank Negara Datuk Nor Mohamad Yaacop will speak on Malaysia's selective exchange controls and provide clarification to the British business community on how the controls work.

Asli and the British Foreign Office think-tank, Wilton Park, will also hold a seminar on managing the global economy in light of the Asian economic crisis.

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