

19/08/1999

PM to attend dialogue with Krugman

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is expected to attend a breakfast dialogue with prominent economists and businessmen to discuss the country's future business scenario.

The dialogue will be held on Aug 27 at the Palace of the Golden Horses in Selangor.

A "controversial" economist, Ford International Professor of Economics at Massachusetts Institute of Technology Professor Paul Krugman, is expected to attend the dialogue.

Krugman is well-known for his divergent view from the mainstream and has authored more than a dozen books, the latest being The Return of Depression Economics.

His other books include Accidental Theorists and Other Dispatches from the Dismal Science, which is a collection of essays that covers issues from the Asian financial crisis to inflation in America.

Krugman had warned about the Asian crisis before it actually happened and is known for his support of Malaysia's selective capital control measures.

He is considered a future Nobel prize winner.

Some 60 experts, representing various fields, including economics, politics and media, will be invited to the one-and-a-half-hour, closed-door dialogue.

The dialogue will be followed by a seminar titled Malaysian Business Forecast.

The seminar, organised by Strategic Intelligence (M) Sdn Bhd, will be divided into two sessions.

Krugman will deliver a lecture on Managing the Paradigm Shift in Asia's New Economic Environment in the first session.

Bank Negara Malaysia's former deputy governor Tan Sri Lin See Yan will comment on Krugman's lecture.

This will then be followed by a general discussion with participants.

The second session, Prospects for Malaysian Business, will be chaired by Second Finance Minister Datuk Mustapa Mohamed.

Invited panellists for the session include Krugman, Bank Negara governor Tan Sri Ali Abul Hassan Sulaiman, National Economic Action Council working group member Datuk Dr Zainal Aznam Yusof and Andersen Consulting managing partner Larry Gan.

Registration fee for the seminar is RM1,000 per person. Interested parties can contact Strategic Intelligence at 03-2613360/3362 or 03-2645668.

Strategic Intelligence has offices in Singapore and Indonesia. It has a website which can be accessed at www.strategici.com.

(END)