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PM to open world energy congress

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will officiate at the World Renewable Energy Congress 1999 at the Palace of the Golden Horses on Tuesday.

Malaysia is hosting the four-day congress as part of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005 under the initiative of the World Solar Commission. Dr Mahathir is a member of the commission.

The first in Asia, the congress is being organised by the Energy, Telecommunications and Multimedia Ministry with the co-operation of other public and private agencies, universities and non-governmental organisations.

It will be the first held outside the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development countries. It is supported by the UK-based World Renewable Energy Network.

The congress, themed "Research, Development and Commercialisation of Renewable Energy", is to promote the timely introduction, diffusion, development and efficient application of economic renewable energy technologies.

It will see 335 participants. A total of 260 working papers will be presented. The registration fee is RM1,000. Postgraduate students can request sponsorship from the Electricity Supply Industry Trust Account.

Several programmes have also been lined up to promote the utilisation of renewable energy.

These include flagging off the third leg of the Malaysian International Solar Cycle Challenge and the launch of Pusat Tenaga Malaysia, a non-profit organisation to promote energy efficiency.

There will be a prize-giving ceremony for the national schools' poster competition on the promotion of renewable energy.

An international renewable energy exhibition will also be held during the congress.

A forum themed "Towards Sustainable Development - The Role and Agenda for Renewable Energy" will be held at the Palace of the Golden Horses at 9am on Friday.

For inquiries, contact 03-7172612. The ministry's website is <http://www.ktkm.gov.my>.

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