

Malaysia-UK council to set up new working groups

The council will also discuss initiatives in IT, infrastructure development and education/human resource development

THE Malaysian-British Business Council is expected to establish two new working groups focusing on biotechnology/life sciences and tourism/hospitality industry when it meets in London next week. The council, which is chaired jointly by Standard Chartered Bank chairman Sir Patrick Gillam and Asian Strategic and Leadership Institute (Asli) president Mirzan Mahathir, will also discuss several initiatives and joint programmes in information technology, infrastructure development and education/human resource development at the annual meeting.

Asli chief executive officer and the council's co-executive director Datuk Michael Yeoh said in a statement released in Kuala Lumpur yesterday that a conference on "Malaysian-British Partnership for the 21st Century" will be held in conjunction with the coun-

cil's meeting.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is scheduled to deliver a keynote address at the conference on October 5, which is jointly organised by Asli and Asia House London. He will also attend a dinner hosted by the British Government at Lancaster House, London in conjunction with the council's meeting.

About 60 Malaysian business leaders will attend the high-powered conference, which will be opened by the British Secretary of State for Trade and Industry Mr Stephen Byers.

"The Prime Minister will also have a dialogue with participants at the conference," he said.

Yeoh added that the conference will focus on how to enhance the close bilateral business relations between Britain and Malaysia. It will also update British business leaders on Malaysia's economic outlook and investment prospects.

Speakers at the conference include Institute of Strategic and International Studies chairman Tan Sri Noordin

Sopiee who will speak on "Knowledge Economy", Bank Negara governor Datuk Dr Zeti Akhtar Aziz on "Malaysia's Economic Outlook" and Multimedia Development Corp chairman Tan Sri Dr Othman Yeop Abdullah on "Converging Information and Communications Technology and E-Business Opportunities".

A special financial and capital market seminar will also be held to update British fund managers and institutional investors on prospects in the Malaysian capital market.

KLSE executive chairman Datuk Mohd Azlan Hashim will highlight improvements in corporate governance in Malaysia to attract more British portfolio investors and to regain confidence among institutional funds.

"This is the first time a twin-pronged strategy has been adopted to hold two parallel events in London, one focusing on the broader bilateral business relations and the other focusing specifically on the financial and capital market. These meetings will bring the bilateral business

relations to a new era of strengthened cooperation," Yeoh said.

Malaysian business leaders attending the conference and council meeting include Arab-Malaysian Banking Group chairman Tan Sri Azman Hashim, MUI Group chairman Tan Sri Khoo Kay Peng, Hong Leong Group chairman Tan Sri Quek Leng Chan, 101 Group chairman Tan Sri Lee Shin Cheng, Antah Group managing director Tunku Tan Sri Imran Tuanku Ja'afar, Telekom Malaysia chairman Datuk Radzi Mansor, KLK Bhd Datuk Lee Oi Hian, Mahkota Technology chairman Tan Sri Arumugam and YTL Corp managing director Tan Sri Francis Yeoh.

Other business leaders include Proton chief executive officer Tunku Tan Sri Mahaleel Tunku Ariff, Tenaga Nasional chairman Datuk Dr Jamaludin Jarjis, Berjaya chairman Tan Sri Vincent Tan, Talam Corp chairman Tan Sri Chan Ah Chye, Bank Rakyat chairman Dr Nora-seah Mohamad and KUB chairman Datuk Hassan Harun.