

PM to open conference on K-economy

Net - 7 OCT 2000

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will open the *Knowledge and the 21st Century Economy* conference to be held on Oct 17.

The Prime Minister will also deliver a keynote address at the meeting to be held at the Sunway Lagoon Resort Hotel.

He will later participate in a question and answer session with participants.

The conference, organised by the MCA English Speaking Membership Bureau, will provide an opportunity for the public to be better informed about the knowledge-economy (K-economy).

Organising chairman Datuk

Chua Jui Meng said the conference will be divided into two sections with six speakers.

The first section which carries the theme "Knowledge — The Power behind the New Economy" will be chaired by Institute of Strategic and International Studies chairman and chief executive officer Tan Sri Dr Noordin Sopiee.

The second section of the conference, carrying the theme "The New Frontier of Knowledge Economy, will be chaired by Sunway College executive director Tan Sri Dr Ramon Navaratnam.

The speakers include Bill Anderson from Microsoft Headquarters, Mimos Bhd chief executive

officer Tengku Datuk Dr Mohd Azzman Shariffadeen and Health Ministry director general Tan Sri Dr Abu Bakar Suleiman.

"As we move into the 21st century, we need to shift from a production and industrial-driven economy to the knowledge-driven in order to remain competitive in a globalised world," said Chua, who is also Health Minister.

He said in a K-economy, knowledge content and contribution would see a quantum leap in every area.

"The Government has explicitly stressed that it is necessary to ensure this paradigm shift in our people," he added.