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Mahathir-Globalisation

G-15 WANTS TO DISCUSS GLOBALISATION WITH G-8

By: Mohamed Ghazemy Mahmud

TOKYO, June 12 (Bernama) -- The developing countries want to discuss specific issues, including the ongoing process of globalisation, with the rich nations, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The prime minister said he was not hopeful of the outcome of the upcoming G-8 meeting, scheduled to be held in Okinawa next month, especially on issues concerning the developing world but said he would keep on pushing.

He said: "Japanese Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori had said that he would convey the developing world's message to the others. Except for the French, I think the others do not want to see poor people coming to sit at the same table as the rich."

"We have specific issues, for example, we would like to discuss globalisation with them because the present globalisation process is going to cause us to lose a lot of money," he told a news conference at the end of a week-long working visit to Japan.

On the East Asia Economic Caucus (EAEC), Dr Mahathir said there appeared to be some progress. "Where previously Asean was afraid to accept the EAEC, now we have de facto achieved our objective, that is, we already have Asean plus 3 which is actually also the EAEC," he said.

On the North-South summit conference in Pyongyang which began today, he said: "I think it is good for them to come together. They are the same people, I think there will be differences but anybody would have differences."

"Even within South Korea also there will be people with differences of opinion, and I'm quite sure even in North Korea, but if you don't sit down and talk and try and find a solution, you are not going to go anywhere," he said.

On the death of President Hafez al-Assad of Syria, Dr Mahathir said: "It is sad and unfortunate because Syria is directly involved in efforts to end the war between Israel and its neighbours.

"So, I don't know how the new Syrian government will continue this effort but definitely new relations must be forged before they can succeed which may further delay the peace process."

On his message to the upcoming G-15 summit in Cairo, he said it would be unity because the developing countries needed to act together.

"It is not so easy because different members of the G-15 have different policies," he said.

This was because they were beholden to other countries and were not vocal like Malaysia, he added.

He said that if a country was extravagant and had many debts it would be forced to bow to other countries and be controlled by its creditors because it was beholden to them.

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