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APEC-SUMMIT
APEC LEADERS' SUMMIT TO KICK OFF THIS AFTERNOON

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BANDER SERI BEGAWAN, Nov 15 (Bernama) -- The APEC Economic Leaders' Summit kicks off this afternoon at 3 pm when leaders congregate at the International Convention Centre to dialogue with members of the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC), which represents the region's private sector.

The leaders of 21 Asia-Pacific economies, including Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, are expected to discuss a wide range of topics including globalisation and the need for regulations in the international financial architecture.

Oil-rich Brunei, the host of the Eight APEC Summit, has set a summit theme of "Delivering To the Community."

Dr Mahathir is expected to present views on globalisation, on behalf of many developing economies, at the summit, which is also expected to address concerns many economies have over the adverse effects of globalisation.

The Brunei meeting has drawn U.S. President Bill Clinton, Japanese Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori, Russian President Vladimir Putin and the President of Chile, Ricardo Lagos, among others.

Prior to the meeting of the leaders, Lagos and Putin are expected to speak at the second-day of the ABAC meeting, which is being held at the Empire Hotel on "Reflections on Globalisation's Challenges while President Clinton is scheduled to make a personal keynote address before the lunch break.

This would be followed by a special keynote luncheon address by Chinese President Jiang Zemin.

Tomorrow, the leaders will assemble at the Jerodung Polo and Country Club for the Leaders Retreat and for the reading of the declaration at about 4 pm.

Meanwhile, President Putin this morning had a bilateral meeting with Dr Mahathir while another bilateral meeting has been scheduled between Dr Mahathir and Jiang Zemin for tomorrow afternoon. -- BERNAMA

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