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APEC LEADERS LEAVE BRUNEI AFTER CONCLUDING SUMMIT

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BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, Nov 16 (Bernama) -- Apec leaders started leaving this oil-rich country after concluding a fruitful two-day Summit here.

First to leave was Mexican Presiden Dr Ernesto Zedillo, followed by President Abdul Rahman Wahid of Indonesia and Canadian leader representative John Manley.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who was accompanied by Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, also left for Kuala Lumpur tonight.

New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark and Chilean President Ricardo Lagos also left Bandar Seri Begawan tonight.

Other leaders will also be flying out of Brunei tonight except for Chinese President Jiang Zemin who will continue his stay for a two-day state visit to Brunei.

The leaders from 21-member Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation economies were here from Tuesday for the Eighth Apec Economic Leaders Summit (AELM) 2000 held at the International Convention Centre here.

While here, they had fruitfully discussed wide-ranging issues covering four broad themes namely managing globalisation, creating new opportunities, strengthening multilateral trading system and making Apec matter more.

The eighth Summit was held after the two-day Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) on Nov 10-11 and Ministerial Meeting on Nov 12-13.

However, the SOM which was scheduled for two days, managed to wrap up their businesses of setting the agenda for the Ministers' Meeting in half a day.

The next Apec Ministerial Meeting and informal leaders summit will be hosted by China in Shanghai in October 2001. -- BERNAMA

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