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Mahathir-Brunei

BRUNEI WANTS M'SIA TO PLAY DOMINANT ROLE IN APEC 2000, SAYS DR M

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, Oct 30 (Bernama) -- Brunei, the hosts for this year's Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meeting, has asked Malaysia to play a prominent role in voicing out the views of Asian countries at the meeting.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the Sultan of Brunei Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah conveyed his country's wishes during the four-eye meeting he held with him last night.

"We also discussed about the upcoming APEC meeting to be hosted by Brunei. Brunei wants Malaysia to play a prominent role in the meeting to present the views of Asia," he told reporters here at the end of his two-day visit to the sultanate today.

The four-eye meeting between the two leaders lasted for about an hour at Istana Nurul Iman here.

Asked on matters to be discussed at the APEC 2000 from Nov 10 to 16, Dr Mahathir said the meeting is expected to pursue discussions on globalisation issues.

"I think it will still be on globalisation issues because many are worried whether globalisation will bring good or bad to developing countries.

"Developed countries consider globalisation as something good but it may not be so for us," he said.

Dr Mahathir said they also discussed Malaysia-Brunei bilateral ties.

"We also talked about the situations in Southeast Asian countries and whether they had any effects on Malaysia and Brunei," he said.

On his visit to Brunei, Dr Mahathir said it had achieved the objective of enhancing bilateral ties between the two countries.

He said similar visits would be made every year with both countries playing hosts on a rotation basis.

"There is also a proposal that officers (from the two countries) make visits here and to Kuala Lumpur...We also find that more Bruneians are now coming to Malaysia and this is encouraged by both sides," he added.

-- BERNAMA

JS TS