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ASEAN-SUMMIT

CRISIS MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES TO TOP ASEAN BUSINESS SUMMIT AGENDA

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 18 (Bernama) -- Discussing strategies undertaken by Asean businesses in coming out from the regional crisis will be a top agenda during the Asean Business Summit 2000, to be held here from April 11 to 12.

Organised by the National Chamber of Commerce and Industry Malaysia (NCCIM) and the Asean Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Asean-CCI), the business summit would be opened by Malaysian premier Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who is also expected to deliver the keynote address for the summit.

This would be followed by a special dialogue session between Dr Mahathir and summit delegates, said Asean-CCI President Tan Sri Tajudin Ramli during a press conference here today to announce the business summit.

He said Indonesian president Abdurrahman Wahid and U.S. Secretary of Commerce William M. Daley have also been invited to the summit.

Prior to the two-day business summit, Asean-CCI and the Moscow based Russia-Asean Cooperation Fund would also hold the Asean Russia Business Forum on April 13, here.

On the Asean Business Summit, Tajudin said: "It is hoped that the business summit would provide a platform for businessmen to discuss strategies, current development and collective initiatives that Asean and Asia need to implement in addressing the new economic, technological, societal and geopolitical realities of the 21st century.

He said the recent economic crisis had underscored the need for a region-wide forum for Asian countries and their respective private sectors, to discuss, formulate and coordinate effective approaches to common problems.

Describing the summit as timely following the economic crisis, Tajudin hoped the summit would contribute towards further enhancement of economic cooperation in the region.

The summit would be the second held under the auspices of Asean-CCI. The first meeting was held in Jakarta in 1997.

Tajudin who is also the president of NCCIM disclosed that prominent Asean political and economic leaders, businessmen, and academicians from all over the world representing leading organisations and world bodies have been invited to participate.

Among other issues expected to be discussed at the summit would include those involving Asean Free Trade Area (Afta), World Trade Organisation (WTO), and Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation (Apec).

The summit, he said, would also focus on Asean business in preparing to meet challenges in the new digital economy of the 21st century brought about by rapid development of knowledge and technology based innovations.

Asean CCI Exco-Deputy chairman, Datuk Paul Low said Asean business leaders would also take a closer look at their own economic recovery programmes which have been more of an export-led type of recovery. --

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