

25 SEP 2000

MAHATHIR-LONDON

DR MAHATHIR TO SPEAK AT LONDON CONFERENCE ON OCT 5

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 25 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is to deliver a keynote address at the "Malaysian-British Partnership for 21st Century" conference in London on Oct 5.

The conference, to be held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Malaysian-British Business Council, is jointly organised by the Asian Strategy & Leadership Institute (ASLI) and Asia House London.

About 60 Malaysian business leaders are expected to attend the high-powered conference to be opened by the British Secretary of State for Trade & Industry, Stephen Byers.

"The Prime Minister will also have a dialogue session with the participants at the conference," SAID Datuk Michael Yeoh, ASLI's chief executive officer cum co-executive director of the Malaysian-British Business Council.

The conference would focus on how to enhance the close bilateral business relationship between Britain and Malaysia as well as updating British business leaders on the country's economic outlook and investment prospects, he said in statement.

Other Malaysian speakers at the conference include Institute of Strategic International Studies (ISIS) chairman Tan Sri Dr Noordin Sopiee, Bank Negara Malaysia governor Datuk Dr Zeti Akhtar Aziz and Multimedia Development Corporation Sdn Bhd chairman Tan Sri Dr Othman Yeop Abdullah.

A special financial and capital market seminar will also be held in London to update British fund managers and institutional investors on prospects in the Malaysian capital market.

"The executive chairman of the KLSE (Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange), Datuk Mohd Azlan Hashim, will highlight improvements in corporate governance in Malaysia to attract more British portfolio investors and to regain confidence among institutional funds," Yeoh said.

He said this is the first time a twin-pronged strategy has been adopted to have two paralalled events in London, one focusing on the broader bilateral business relationship and the other touching specifically on the financial and capital market.

The Malaysian-British Business Council meeting taking place in London will be chaired jointly by Sir Patrick Gillam, chairman of Standard Chartered Bank, and Mirzan Mahathir, president of ASLI.

The council will discuss several initiatives and joint programmes in information technology, infrastructure development and education/human resource development.

Yeoh said, "The council is also likely to establish two new working groups focusing on Biotechnology/Life Sciences and Tourism/Hospitality industry which are important growth areas for Malaysia."

Dr Mahathir will also attend a dinner hosted by the British government at the historic Lancaster House in conjunction with the Malaysian-British Business Council meeting.

Among the Malaysian business leaders who will attend the conference and the Malaysian-British Business Council meeting in London are Tan Sri Azman Hashim, chairman Arab-Malaysian Banking group; Datuk Radzi Mansor, chairman Telekom Malaysia Bhd; and Tan Sri Francis Yeoh, managing director YTL Corporation. -- BERNAMA

MK SHY

