

19 OCT 2000

MAHATHIR LEAVES FOR SOUTH KOREA

PETALING JAYA, Oct 19 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad left for Seoul today to attend the third Asia-Europe Meeting (Asem) where he is expected to voice Malaysia's views on globalisation during the dialogue among Asem leaders.

The prime minister departed from the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah airport, Subang, on a special flight at noon.

Accompanying him was his wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik, Information Minister Tan Sri Khalil Yaacob and Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Norian Mai were among those present to see him off.

Asem, an idea advanced by Singapore, is a forum for countries in Asia and Europe to promote economic, political and cultural cooperation. The leaders first met in Bangkok in March 1996 and the second Asem took place in London in April 1998.

During the Seoul summit, the leaders are expected to adopt the Asia-Europe Cooperation Framework (AECF) to outline Asem's vision, its fundamental principles and the objectives for the next century as well as concrete projects to be pursued.

-- BERNAMA

NZ AHH JK