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Mahathir-Chirac

MAHATHIR TO MEET FRENCH PRESIDENT IN PARIS ON JAN 29

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 11 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will make a brief visit to Paris on Jan 29 to meet French President Jacques Chirac to discuss bilateral and international issues.

The prime minister will also have informal meetings with leaders of the world economies during the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland from Jan 27 to Feb 1.

He will attend the forum as part of his week-long working visit to Davos beginning Jan 27, a statement from the Prime Minister's office, here, says.

Prior to that, Dr Mahathir will take a two-week vacation overseas starting tomorrow.

Dr Mahathir, who will be accompanied by his wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, will be in Argentina and the Caribbeans during the two weeks, the statement says.

At the forum in Davos, Dr Mahathir will deliver a keynote address and participate in a cultural dialogue between the leaders and heads of government of the Islamic and western countries.

The other Islamic leaders participating in the dialogue are the King of Jordan and the presidents of Egypt and Indonesia while the west will be represented by the kings of Norway and Spain and the presidents of Austria, Czech Republic, Finland, Germany and Italy.

The dialogue is aimed at identifying the similarities in the Islamic and western cultures to formulate strategies to resolve misunderstandings and differences, the statement says.

It is also aimed at coming up with an early warning system on conflicts that arise from the misunderstandings and differences.

Dr Mahathir is scheduled to return home on Feb 3.

-- BERNAMA

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