

16 JUN 2000

G15-Syed Hamid

MALAYSIA CONFIDENT CAIRO CONFERENCE WILL ENHANCE G-15 COOPERATION

By: Ahmad Zukiman Zain

CAIRO, June 16 (Bernama) -- Malaysia is confident that the G-15 summit opening here on Monday will strengthen cooperation among countries of the South in facing international issues.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said the presence of many heads of government at the summit of developing countries reflected positively on their efforts to focus on issues of common interest.

"I think that the summit to be attended by nine heads of government and four deputy heads of government is a positive development."

"This means 13 of the 17 members of the grouping will be represented at the highest level," he told Malaysian reporters on arrival here to join his colleagues in the G-15 for the summit preparatory conference.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is scheduled to arrive here tomorrow for the summit being hosted for the second time by Eyypt.

Iran's application would be discussed at the official level meeting before it went up to the summit level.

G15 groups Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, Peru, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Venezuela and Zimbabwe.

Syed Hamid said after 10 years, it was appropriate for the G15 to review its achievements in the area of enhanced cooperation particularly in the economic and trade fields.

He was confident that the joint communique, which would encompass political, economic and trade questions, to be issued at the end of the two-day summit would further strengthen solidarity among members.

-- BERNAMA

AZZ AAM