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PM to attend Cambridge conference

Balan Moses

WHEN Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad attends the Malaysia In The New Millennium conference at the University of Cambridge on Oct 7, it will largely be because of the efforts of the Cambridge University Malaysia Society (CUMaS).

Dr Mahathir's presence is the brainchild of the six-year-old society which caters to the needs of Malaysian undergraduate and post graduate students in Cambridge.

The conference will include sessions on the knowledge economy, information technology, Multimedia Super Corridor, banking reforms, globalisation and free trade, democracy and civil liberties.

Society President Tan Khoon Tee, in a message to members over its homepage, said all six speakers have confirmed their attendance.

Institute of Strategic and International Studies chairman and chief executive officer Tan Sri Dr Mohamed Noordin Sopiee will speak on Malaysia's Strategic Initiative One of the 21st Century: Making The Quantum Leap to The Knowledge Economy.

Multimedia Development Corporation executive chairman Tan Sri Dr Othman Yeop Abdullah will touch on Information Technology and Developments in the Multimedia Super Corridor.

Bank Negara Governor Datuk Dr Zeti Akhtar Aziz will address the audience on Malaysia's Financial Sector Master Plan: Advancing Into The 21st Century, while Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Dr Rais Yatim will speak on Democracy and Civil Liberties: Shaping The Way Forward.

Cambridge University's Faculty of Economics and Politics Newton Trust UTO/CTO lecturer Michael Kitson will touch on Globalisation and Free Trade: Its Impact on Developing Countries.

University vice-chancellor Prof Sir Alec Broers is expected to attend the conference.

CUMaS has set up a website at [www.cambconf.org](http://www.cambconf.org) to provide information about the meeting.

Tan said the society had brought together students, academics, corporate officials and Malaysian politicians to provide a forum to exchange ideas and opinions on current issues.

The conference will be held at Lady Mitchell Hall.

Dr Mahathir has previously spoken at Cambridge. He opened the Malaysian Commonwealth Research Centre in 1995 and also had a dialogue with Malaysian students at the university.

The centre is funded by the Pok Rafeah House think tank (named after Finance Minister Tun Daim Zainuddin's mother).

CUMaS was formed by a group of Malaysians who thought that their needs were not being adequately met by the 52-year-old Cambridge University Malaysia and Singapore Association (CUMSA).

CUMSA was founded by now Senior Minister of Singapore Mr Lee Kuan Yew as a cultural and social organisation to represent the welfare and interests of Malaysian and Singaporean students. It was also to foster friendship between the two countries because of their common heritage.

Its members include British, Canadian and Mauritian students.

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