

Asia's reaction

focus of assembly

KUALA LUMPUR: How Asia will react to new realities following the Sept 11 terrorist attacks on the United States will be the key issue to be discussed during the fifth One Asia Assembly in Kuala Lumpur next year.

Co-chairman of the organising committee of OAA 2002 Tan Sri Razali Ismail said the high level meeting would convene local and foreign delegates comprising economists, social scientists, publishers, editors, journalists and members of the diplomatic corps to discuss conflicts and new realities in the world.

"There are so many conflicts taking place around the world. We have to look at how the media play up politics; some say that the United Nation has not done much; governments are facing serious problems of governance.

"The assembly will be structured in such a way that various aspects will be taken into consideration," he told a press conference to announce the assembly which will be organised by the Press Foundation of Asia - Malaysia Chapter at Renaissance Hotel here yesterday.

Themed "Society, Governance and the New Realities", the assembly which is sched-

uled to take place from Aug 12 to 14 at the Putra World Trade Centre, would be opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Razali, who is also the UN special envoy for Myanmar, said the theme that constitutes new realities was apt as the assembly had to look at the impact of the Sept 11 tragedy on Asia and various aspects of globalisation.

The assembly organising committee chief executive Datuk A. Kadir Jasin said the assembly would also focus on the issue of women, considering their important role in the Asian society.

There will be a plenary session of a live satellite broadcast feed featuring Asian women such as Myanmar's opposition National League for Democracy (NLD) leader Aung San Suu Kyi, Philippine President Gloria Arroyo, Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri, Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga and former Pakistan prime minister Benazir Bhutto.

On whether press freedom would be discussed, he said the role of the press might also be discussed and linked to what had happened before and after Sept 11.