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Arroyo among leaders to speak at world meet in KL

PHILIPPINES president Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo will be among 50 government and private sector leaders to speak at the 10th World Economic Development Congress themed "Infrastructure, Internet & The New Economy" in Kuala Lumpur from June 27 to June 29 2001.

Arroyo's presence, however, will be via a television satellite link direct from Manila to the Putra World Trade Centre.

The congress, the premier forum for the world's most influential corporate and government leaders and thinkers on infrastructure development, global markets and national economies, will focus on information technology/e-commerce, global integration of markets and the infrastructure for production and consumption in the information age.

It will be opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Other confirmed keynote speakers at the congress include former British Prime Minister John Major, who will speak on "Meeting the Global Leadership Challenge: Developing and Sustaining Growth Strategies"; World Trade Organisation director-general designate and former Thai Deputy Minister Dr Supachai Panitchpakdi on "A United Asia? AFTA and Regional Economic Integration"; Indonesian Senior Minister for Economics, Finance and Industry Dr Rizal Ramli ("Weathering the Financial Storms: What is Next on the Horizon?"; Indian Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Information Technology Pramod Mahajan and South African Finance Minister Trevor Manuel.

Speakers from the private sector include Dynegy chairman and chief executive officer Chuck Watson, Asian Development Bank's director of industry, energy and infrastructure, head of Private Sector Group Cristine Wallich and Nortel Network Asia president Masood Tariq.

Every year, WEDC convenes over 1,200 government and business leaders from over 80 countries. The Kuala Lumpur chapter again brings together industry key players to discuss infrastructure, global economic development and the growing role of Asia in the process.

The congress is organised by World Congress LLC, New York in collaboration with its Malaysian partner, EcoEvent Sdn Bhd.

Kuala Lumpur-based congress director Jamal Nasir said the congress will provide an "outstanding opportunity to network with leaders of the world, infrastructure and financing industry who would normally be very difficult to access".

They include government ministers, national and sub-national elected and appointed officials and senior infrastructure executives, CEOs, CFOs and other corporate senior executives, leading infrastructure developers, investors and financiers and senior representatives from multilateral agencies.

In conjunction with the congress, an exhibition on "Building Malaysia" will be held at the Putra World Trade Centre.

Business Times will publish a special supplement highlighting Malaysia's infrastructure development and the companies that have played a role in the country's rapid infrastructure growth.

Details on the congress can be obtained from www.wedckl.com.

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