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Mahathir-Apec

ASIA HAS BETTER CHANCE FOR MORE PRODUCTIVE GLOBALISATION

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SHANGHAI, Oct 20 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today Asia has a much better chance of evolving a more productive form of globalisation if it can unite and set the example of a productive, caring and compassionate globalisation.

"We must work hard to establish an Asian Monetary System. We must work towards a stable Asian currency," the prime minister said when addressing the Apec CEO Summit 2001 at the Pudong Shangri-La here.

In his keynote address entitled "Globalisation With Common Development", Dr Mahathir said Asian countries must cast off the traditional mindframe of "beggar thy neighbour" and put securely in its place the ethic of "prosper thy neighbour".

"If our friends elsewhere are not willing to help, they should not seek to hinder. If they cannot be part of the solution, they should get out of the way and not be part of the problem," he told more than 500 chief executive officers of world-renowned companies from the 21 Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) forum member economies.

Dr Mahathir is among eight Apec leaders attending the Ninth Apec Leaders Meeting who were invited to speak at the three-day CEO summit.

The others are Chinese President Jiang Zemin, US President George W. Bush, Russian President Vladimir Putin, Mexican President Vicente Fox, New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark, Australian Prime Minister John Howard and the Chief Executive of Hong Kong, Tung Chee Hwa.

Dr Mahathir said the progress that Asia needed in the years ahead could only come from national action and individual initiative.

"We did not fight to be free in order to learn to +kowitz+. We have a right, indeed we have a duty, to work for the benefit of our people and our future. We must welcome advice, we must not tolerate dictation.

"We must seek truth from facts. We must do what works and abandon what no longer does," he added.

He also said that Asian countries must be prepared to "quickly say yes to certain forms of globalisation. And we must be prepared to say, no, no and no when we must no, no and no, guided always by the dictates of pragmatism."

Dr Mahathir said east Asia had benefited a great deal from some aspects of globalisation and also suffered a great deal from some aspects of globalisation, as it was promoted, practised and pressed upon today.

"We must each work hard to improve the equation of costs and benefits," he said, adding that education and knowledge were essential for competitiveness in a globalising world.

"We must make sure that we make the necessary investment in the most important resource of our nations, that is our people."

And in the final analysis, Dr Mahathir said, Asian countries must make sure their people understood that the helping hand that every human being needed was the one at the end of his own right arm because God helped those who helped themselves.

"This was so before the age of globalisation. It is so today. It will always be so in the days ahead," Dr Mahathir said.

-- BERNAMA

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