

27 FEB 2001

BFA-LAUNCH

BOAO FORUM FOR ASIA LAUNCHED

BOAO (Hainan), Feb 27 (Bernama) -- The Boao Forum for Asia (BFA), a body devoted to promoting greater economic development and prosperity in Asia through high-level dialogues among leaders, business people and scholars, was formally launched by Chinese president Jiang Zemin here today.

It currently has a membership of representatives from 25 Asian countries which have given the impetus for its formation.

Jiang also read out a poem which he composed last night in praise of BFA's establishment and its gathering of wise men.

Prior to the launch, BFA secretary-general, Tan Sri Ajit Singh paid tribute to Jiang's affirmation of his government's commitment to help establish BFA.

Present at the launch was Malaysian prime minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, King Birendra of Nepal, former Japanese premier Yasuhiro Nakasone, former Australian premier Bob Hawke, former Philippine president Fidel V. Ramos, former Pakistani president Farooq Leghari, former Kazakh premier, Sergy Terechshenko and former Vietnamese vice premier, Nguyen Manh Cam.

-- BERNAMA
SHY MKO KTC