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Mahathir-Dinner

DR MAHATHIR JOINS ASEAN LEADERS IN WORKING DINNER WITH DIALOGUE PARTNERS

By: David Chelliah

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, Nov 4 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohammad joined other leaders of Asean and its dialogue partners China, Japan and South Korea at a working dinner hosted by Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah just two hours after his arrival here for the Seventh Asean Leaders' Summit.

During the dinner, Malaysian officials said, Dr Mahathir and other leaders would review reports by the Asean secretary-general on the progress made after the informal summit in Singapore last year.

The leaders will also study a mid-term report on the Hanoi Plan of Action before Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah opens the floor for the leaders to discuss terrorism, the highlight of the summit here.

"It is more pressing for Asean members to make a clear stand on global terrorism now and the economic slump facing the region," said a senior Malaysian official.

Tomorrow morning, the Asean leaders will begin the summit proper and Dr Mahathir is scheduled to hold a media conference in the evening.

On the sidelines of the two-day summit, Dr Mahathir is also scheduled to hold bilateral meetings with Cambodian Premier Hun Sen and South Korean President Kim Dae-Jung.

The following day, the climax of the summit, Dr Mahathir is also scheduled to hold a media conference at the end of the session.

The 10 Asean members are Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

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