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PEG-MAHATHIR

DR MAHATHIR LAUNCHES PEG'S CLEAN ENERGY INITIATIVES

KUALA LUMPUR, June 12 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today launched the Clean Energy Initiatives of the Partnership for Equitable Growth (PEG) at the KL (Kuala Lumpur) Roundtable.

At the launch of the initiatives, PEG's chief executive officer, Dr Shafiq Abdullah handed over the PEG 2001 Report on Clean Energy Initiatives and Infrastructure Support Systems to Dr Mahathir, who is also the patron of PEG.

During the closed door roundtable meeting, Dr Mahathir had some discussions with representatives of leading oil companies, BP and Shell as well as state-owned oil companies, Petroliam Nasional Bhd and the Petroleum Authority of Thailand.

"We have very good discussion. PM (Dr Mahathir) laid out the importance of clean energy and the idea that we should try to maximise efficiency in how we use energy and try to move away from oil which is dirtier compared to gas and other forms of energy like hydro electric and solar," he told reporters after the meeting.

During the meeting, the oil companies representatives also responded to Dr Mahathir's suggestions and they also gave their opinions on how to collaborate for mutual benefit, he added.

Dr Shafiq said: "We hope that the KL Roundtable on Clean Energy Initiatives will address some of the key issues in order for concrete solutions to be tabled at the APEC (Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation) Leaders Summit in Shanghai 2001.

"This will include discussions on the Asian Gas Grid and the Trans ASEAN Gas pipeline as means to deliver clean energy in the form of natural gas," he said.

PEG is a non-profit APEC organisation incorporated in Kuala Lumpur to help its members prepare and cope with the impact of liberalisation and globalisation. -- BERNAMA

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