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Highest profile gathering of leaders at summit

THE Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation (Apec) leaders' summit this weekend will see the highest profile gathering of world leaders since the Sept 11 attacks on the United States.

The annual economic forum for the 21 countries has not seen security as tight as this year.

More than 10,000 police and security personnel have been mobilised to protect US President George W. Bush, Chinese President Jiang Zemin, Russian President Vladimir Putin, Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and other leaders.

Shanghai is expected to receive nearly 10,000 guests this week and this includes 6,000 delegates from Apec member economies and more than 3,000 journalists from 520 media institutions.

At the International Media Centre in Pudong which is the city's new financial and trade district, media personnel were subjected to stringent checks at the entrance.

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