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MAHATHIR DESCRIBES MEETING WITH BUSH AS FRIENDLY

PETALING JAYA, Oct 27 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has described his meeting with US President George W. Bush at the recent Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit in Shanghai as friendly.

"We got on quite well with each other. It (the meeting) wasn't serious all the time. There were times when I cracked a few jokes but I can't remember what there were," Dr Mahathir said when asked to comment on a statement by US officials that Bush found him to have a good sense of humour at the meeting.

"It wasn't a very solemn occasion although we did discuss very serious things. I think he (Bush) was very friendly," he told reporters here on his return from a nine-day overseas trip to China, South Korea and Japan.

Dr Mahathir described the Shanghai APEC meeting as meaningful.

He said APEC members did not press much this time around and there was no mention of issues like globalisation, market opening and target dates for market opening.

"Instead we talked about terrorism and the need to cooperate," said Dr Mahathir who said that he put forward the views of developing countries and the need to apply the "Prosper Thy Neighbour" philosophy.

--BERNAMA

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