

27 MAR 2001

MALAYSIA TO HOST ASIA PRESS ASSEMBLY

KUALA LUMPUR, March 27 (Bernama) -- Malaysia will play host to the fifth One Asia Assembly to be held at the Putra World Trade Centre, here, end of this year or early next year.

Press Foundation of Asia (PFA) secretary-general Khairul Bashar said today United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan had agreed to open the assembly while Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad would deliver the keynote address.

"Both men have agreed in principle to attend the assembly which will be held either in November this year or January or February next year," he said after the PFA organising committee meeting, here.

The meeting was chaired by PFA chairman Datuk Mazlan Nordin.

Those attending the meeting included the UN secretary-general's special envoy to Myanmar, Tan Sri Razali Ismail, who is the co-chairman, president of the PFA Malaysian chapter Datuk A. Kadir Jasin, who is the chief executive of the One Asia Assembly, and Bernama general manager Syed Jamil Jaafar.

The five-day assembly is expected to draw more than 1,000 people comprising publishers, editors and reporters from all over the world, Asian statesmen, academicians, bankers, scientists and intellectuals, officials from the UN and other international agencies.

-- BERNAMA

YBK AHH JK