

20 OCT 2001

Mahathir-Arrive

PM ARRIVES IN SHANGHAI FOR APEC 2001

By: Mohd Kamel Othman and Ridzuan Zulkifli

SHANGHAI, Oct 20 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad arrived here last night to attend the Ninth APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting.

Dr Mahathir accompanied by wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali arrived at Shanghai's Pudong International Airport at midnight. Several bilaterals have been lined up for the prime minister on the sidelines of the Leaders' Meeting.

The prime minister will have his first bilateral meeting with Mexican President Vicente Fox at 8.10am followed by meetings with Russian President Vladimir Putin, US President George W.Bush and Chinese President Jiang Zemin.

In the afternoon, Dr Mahathir will attend the Asean Leaders' informal lunch hosted by the Sultan of Brunei at the Grand Hyatt Hotel.

Out of the 10-member grouping, Myanmar, Laos and Cambodia are the only Asean countries not in the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum.

The Prime Minister will then deliver a keynote address at the APEC CEO Summit 2001. He is among eight APEC leaders who will deliver speeches at the three-day summit which started Thursday.

The others are Jiang Zemin, Bush, Putin, Fox, New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark, Australian Prime Minister John Howard and Chief Executive of Hong Kong Tung Chee Hwa.

Formed in 1989, Apec groups Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Peru, Russia, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, the US and Vietnam.

On Sunday, Dr Mahathir and other leaders will sign the Apec Scroll before proceeding for the Leaders' Retreat at the Science and Technology Museum.

After the Reading of the Leaders Declaration, Dr Mahathir will depart for Dino Beach Waterpark in Min Hang District for the launching of the Royal Garden Sales and Service Centre and Show Unit.

The Prime Minister is scheduled to give a media conference to the international media at 7.30pm before attending the opening ceremony of Kyros Kebab Restaurant owned by Gettmore Group Sdn Bhd.

On Monday morning, Dr Mahathir will have bilateral talk with his Japanese counterpart Junichiro Koizumi before leaving for Qingdao in Shandong province, situated north of Shanghai, for a one-day visit. Qingdao is about an hour's flight from Shanghai.

In Qingdao, the prime minister will visit the Haier Group, Qingdao Port and the Little Fish Hill Park. He will also be meeting the Shandong province governor, Li Chunting.

Haier Group is a super large Chinese enterprise which started out in 1984 as the Qingdao refrigerator factory. The group now has 62 distributors, 38,000 sales outlets around the world. The products are sold in over 160 countries.

Dr Mahathir will leave Qingdao on Tuesday morning for Cheju Island, South Korea.

-- BERNAMA

MKO RID AO