

# Dr M to visit the US early next month

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will visit the US early next month, together with an entourage of key government officials and prominent corporate figures. The working visit, details of which are yet to be finalised, has a list of business and investment-related functions.

Dr Mahathir is tentatively expected to address the World Economic Forum and attend the Asean Networking Dinner meeting in New York on February 3. The next day, the Prime Minister is scheduled to deliver a keynote address entitled "Maintaining Economic and Political Stability amid Regional Turbulence and Global Uncertainties: The Malaysian Experience" at the Malaysian Investment Summit.

The summit is jointly organised by the Asian Strategy and Leadership Institute, the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange (KLSE) and US-based investment banker Salomon Smith Barney. Dr Mahathir is expected to give a detailed insight into Kuala Lumpur's economic policies at the summit which has so far attracted major players from the international investment community.

Bank Negara governor Tan Sri Dr Zeti Akhtar Aziz, KLSE executive chairman Datuk Mohd Azlan Hashim and Penang Chief Minister Tan Sri Koh Tsu Koon are also expected to make presentations at the summit.

According to Wisma Putra officials, Dr Mahathir is also scheduled to visit Ground Zero - the sight where the World Trade Center once stood, before the September 11 terrorist attacks.

Chief executive officer of Asli, Datuk Dr Micheal Yeoh, said in a statement yesterday the Malaysian Investment Summit is timely as Malaysia was primed for recovery. He said that it is time for Malaysia to explain itself better in the international business arena.

"Malaysia's success story needs to be told, and now is the right time to communicate to international investors Malaysia's improving economy, growing political stability, racial and religious harmony and the vast improvements made in corporate governance and reforms," Yeoh said.

The summit endeavours to attract more US investments while highlighting the fact that Malaysia is a fertile investment hub, Yeoh said. The summit would also provide ample opportunities for Kuala Lumpur to clear the many misperceptions about the country and the Government.

Apart from the Malaysian Investment Summit and a host of other business functions, Dr Mahathir is also expected to attend a Breakfast Roundtable with leading US industrialists. The breakfast meeting is arranged by Salomon Smith Barney's chairman, Michael Carpenter. — NST