

# PM meets CPTM Fellows to finalise summit stand

By TAN KAH PENG

LONDON: Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had a meeting of minds with the Commonwealth Partnership for Technology Management (CPTM) Fellows on Tuesday to finalise their stand on three key issues for next week's Commonwealth summit in Australia.

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The Prime Minister told Malaysian journalists after the three-hour session that the issues were the disparity between the rich and poor, the global concern over terrorism and market access for emerging economies.

CPTM chief executive Datuk Dr Mihaela Smith told *The Star* that Ugandan President Yoweri Kaguta

Museveni, in his capacity as the convener of CPTM Fellows, would be making a statement on the three issues at CHOGM.

Dr Mahathir's talks with British Prime Minister Tony Blair, which focused on terrorism, have proven to be very timely.

He has asked Blair to convey to President George Bush

the deep concern of the Muslim world on the direction and focus of the US-driven campaign against terrorism.

Dr Mahathir stressed to Blair that any action to be taken by the US in the next phase of the global war on terrorism, widely reported in the west as targeting Iraq, should not be seen as anti-Islam.

His note of caution has been

borne out in a Gallup poll carried out in nine Muslim countries, and the picture that emerged from the survey, which was just published, showed that the Islamic world is deeply at odds with the west, especially the US.

Respondents in Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Indonesia, Jordan, Morocco, Iran, Kuwait, Turkey and Lebanon

saw the US as "ruthless, aggressive, conceited, arrogant, easily provoked and biased" in its foreign policy.

A strong majority, some 67%, across Islamic countries, felt that the Sept '11 attacks were morally unjustifiable, and their sympathy was with the US though they strongly opposed the military action in Afghanistan.