

Major issues at PBEC meet tomorrow

VARIOUS issues like the security dimension of economic growth, new developments in trade and investment liberalisation, and the emergence of China as a strong economic power are some of the major points of discussion at the Pacific Basin Economic Council's (PBEC) 35th International General Meeting (IGM) beginning in Kuala Lumpur tomorrow.

The meeting will also discuss a number of industry overviews, including those of biotechnology and financial markets.

PBEC Malaysia chairman Tan Sri Azman Hashim said the theme chosen for this year's IGM *Striving for growth in a challenging environment* - was reflective of the recent tragic events that had pushed the world towards economic slowdown and the challenges in finding the best way to revert it.

"It is very timely because recently we have gone through many crises, our own Asian crisis in 1997-1998, the (economic) weakness in the world and the US, then the Sept 11 incident, and now the (global) economy seems to be picking up," he told *Bernama* in an interview in KL.

Azman said the emergence of China as a strong economic power and its admission into the World Trade Organisation (WTO) would certainly impact on other countries.

Some 300 top executives from major corporations are expected to air their views on challenges from China during the five-day event.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will deliver the opening keynote address of the IGM on May 6.

Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo is scheduled to speak on foreign direct investment in the Pacific Basin during the meeting as well as some 15 other ministers from various countries.

KLSE: NEW LISTING TOMORROW	
Company	YI-LAI BERHAD
Offer Price	RM1.10
Board	MAIN BOARD
No. of Shares	160,000,000