

# Dr M, Arroyo to address meeting

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KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Philippines President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo will be among the key personalities who will be addressing leading corporate executives from 20 economies attending the Pacific Basin Economic Council meeting here on Monday.

Mexican Secretary of Economy Dr Luis Ernesto Derbez and South Korea's Minister of Trade Hwang Doo-yun will be among the Trade and Industry Ministers attending the region's premier business conference.

The 35th annual international general meeting, to be held on May 6 and 7, will also see executives from a number of prominent companies, from Morgan Stanley Dean Witter to Mitsubishi Electric to HSBC and Sime Darby Bhd, taking part in it.

"It is hard to imagine another forum that offers such an impressive mix of corporate executives and leading Government policy makers who meet, discuss and debate the breaking issues that will shape the business, economic and political environment in the Asia Pacific in the months to come," said PBEC Malaysia chairman Tan Sri Azman Hashim.

Taking pride in itself being the

voice of business in the Pacific, PBEC's policy recommendations, endorsed by its directors, have been highly regarded by Governments in the region.

PBEC deputy secretary-general Stephen Olson said although the theme of this year's meeting, Striving for growth in a challenging environment, was set prior to Sept 11, the tragic events of the day only emphasised the importance and relevance of the

subject matter.

He also described the meeting as an opportunity for Government leaders to announce groundbreaking new initiatives.

He said former US President Bill Clinton had used the platform in the 1996 meet to make the major announcement of the Most Favoured nation trading status for China.

"It is in the best position to advise Governments about the minds of the region's business leaders on trade, investment and other important business issues."

Many of the policy recommendations have been adopted by individual Governments and prominent international organisations.

One of the highlights of the meeting will be a panel discussion on the war on terrorism.

PBEC Malaysia director-general Rohana Tan Sri Mahmood said the delegates will attend sessions not only on business and economics, but also on the environment and the importance of open and transparent corporate governance.

It will be presenting its fourth annual Environmental Award to companies which have made impressive strides in preserving and protecting the Earth's precious resources.

