

Seoul's support sought in calling terrorism meeting

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SEOUL: Malaysia has reiterated its call for the convening of an international conference on terrorism to come up with a clear definition of terrorism.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Malaysia hopes that South Korea will lend its voice and support for such a conference to discuss the subject comprehensively and to establish the best way to stop the menace.

Describing the fight against terrorism as a major global concern, he stressed that "while it remains a priority for all, it should not include other agendas".

During a press conference earlier, Mahathir said Malaysia will not ask for foreign military assistance in its fight against domestic terrorism.

"We can handle our own affairs without foreign military assistance," he said in his reply to a question from a journalist with a foreign news agency. He was asked whether Malaysia would seek US mili-

tary assistance as the Philippines had done against the Abu Sayyaf group in its southern region

Mahathir said Malaysia has contained extremist groups by detaining them under local detention laws

Speaking at a state banquet hosted by President Kim Dae-Jung at the Blue House, he said: "There is also an urgent need to have a clear definition of terrorism.

"This will allow us to distinguish between a genuine freedom fighter and one who is motivated by a misplaced sense of injustice."

He also expressed his gratitude to the Korean government for supporting Malaysia's "Look East" policy and said he hopes South Korea would continue to accept more Malaysians into universities and institutions.

He said the policy was expanded to include South Korea as Malaysia wanted to emulate Korean work ethics.