

Denmark gets set for 4th Asem Summit

STAR 15 SEP 2002

KUALA LUMPUR: Denmark is getting set for the highlight of its European Union (EU) presidency - the 4th Asia-Europe (Asem) Summit that begins next week in its capital of Copenhagen.

A total of 25 European and Asian leaders, including Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, are expected to attend the summit from Sept 22-24.

The EU would be represented by its 15 leaders while the heads of China, Japan and South Korea would join seven Asean leaders at the meeting. The biennial summit swings between Asia and Europe, with Bangkok playing host in 1996, London in 1998 and Seoul in 2000.

Danish Ambassador to Malaysia Lasse Reimann, the chairman of the EU Group of Ambassadors here, said

Denmark wanted to "celebrate the Asem meeting as an important peak of our (EU) presidency."

"Asia is very important to Europe and there can be no better platform to prove this than the Asem Summit. The Asem process is unique, as the leaders can discuss whatever they wish to raise. The 25 leaders will have many private moments together, and there will be opportunities for bilateral meetings between them," he added.

The presidency of the EU rotates among the member nations every six months. Denmark assumed the post for the second half of 2002 on July 1.

This year's meet is expected to focus on issues such as the global war against terrorism, human trafficking and poverty, human resource development, trade co-operation and other topical matters.