

# Global summit to discuss depleting fish resources

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PENANG: Experts from 40 countries will gather here next month to discuss how world leaders and governments can make the fisheries industry a priority issue in their environment and development plans.

"We aim to move world leaders and their governments to decide on more sustainable environmental practices along the world's rivers, coastlines, lakes, seas and oceans," said Dr Meryl Williams, director-general of the Penang-based WorldFish Centre which is organising the Fish For All Summit.

The event is expected to attract policy makers, marine scientists, fishing industry leaders and non-government organisations worldwide, she said.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is among those sitting in the Fish For All global steering committee, chaired by Unesco Chair of Ecotechnology Prof M.S. Swaminathan.

"The recent World Summit on

Sustainable Development in Johannesburg set the goal of restoring depleted world fishery resources by 2015. The Summit in Penang marks that start of reaching that target," said Dr Williams.

World Bank vice-president Ian Johnson will present the keynote address at the summit, which will be opened by Chief Minister Tan Sri Koh Tsu Koon at the Penang Equatorial Hotel on Nov 3.

Speakers include International Food Policy Research Institute senior research fellow Dr Christopher Delgado, United States Environmental Defence senior scientist Dr Rebecca Goldberg, Ford Foundation India representative Dr Doris Capristrano and University of Canberra's Prof Robert Kearney.

The summit is jointly funded by Australia, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, the Crawford Fund, University of Canberra and the World Wildlife Fund for Nature.

For details, visit [www.fishforall.org](http://www.fishforall.org) or call tel: 04-626 1606