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PBEC-ARROYO
ARROYO TO ADDRESS FORUM IN MALAYSIA

MANILA, March 20 (Bernama) - Philippine President Gloria Arroyo will address the Pacific Basin Economic Council forum in Kuala Lumpur in May.

In talks to reporters today, Arroyo said her coming trip was on invitation of Malaysian Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

It will be her second trip to Malaysia. Arroyo made an official visit to Malaysia in August last year, her first overseas trip since she became president in January 2001.

While in Malaysia, Arroyo and Mahathir are expected to exchange notes on bilateral cooperation between the Philippines and Malaysia and other regional issues.

Arroyo will first make an official visit to Thailand before proceeding to Kuala Lumpur.

She said that in late May, she will again visit Tokyo for a major speaking engagement.

She said that Japan, being the region's main source of foreign investments, was being visited several times by world leaders, especially from the Asian countries.

Arroyo noted that Mahathir's trip to Japan has always been one of promoting investments and attracting big Japanese companies to invest in Malaysia.

"He personally leads investment missions to Japan," she said of Mahathir. -- BERNAMA

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