

04 OCT 2002  
CONFERENCE-CHINA  
CONFERENCE TO ADDRESS CHINA'S ENTRY INTO WTO

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 4 (Bernama) -- The Malaysia-China Economic Conference to be held here on Oct 8, will mainly address the challenges and opportunities facing Malaysian businesses following China's entry into the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

Themed "Challenges - Impact and Prospects", the conference is aimed at providing the English speaking Malaysian business community, especially from the small and medium scale industries, a timely deliberation of the impact and prospects of China's entry into the WTO.

The one-day conference organised by the National SMI Consultative Centre will be held at a hotel in Petaling Jaya near here.

A statement from the organiser today said the conference will address some of the concerns held by local businesses in relation to China's growing economic strength.

It said many local businesses viewed China's low cost production and huge domestic market as a huge threat to their business and that China had also pulled huge foreign investment while large MNCs were relocating their business there.

On the other hand, China's newly acquired wealth has also created a huge market and demand for goods and raw materials presenting immense business opportunities for Malaysia.

"All these, and more, will be deliberated at length at the Malaysia-China Economic Conference 2002," the statement said.

The conference's main highlight will be the keynote address and dialogue session by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Among the session chairmen of the conference are Deputy Minister of Finance Datuk Chan Kong Choy, deputy president Malay Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia Datuk Syed Amid Al-Jeffri and corporate advisor of Sunway Group Tan Sri Ramon Navaratnam.

Some of the experts who would be presenting papers at the conference are assistant chairman of China council for the Promotion of International Trade Yu Ping, representative from Malaysia-China Business Council Tan Koon Swan, associate director World Economic Forum Pamela Mar, director Head of Greater China Economic Research (Deutsche Bank Hong Kong) Jun Ma and group chairman of Lion Group of Companies Tan Sri Willian Cheng. -- BERNAMA

WNZ SD