

06 MAY 2002
ARROYO-PACT
P'PINES, M'SIA AND INDON TO INK ANTI-TERROR PACT

MANILA, May 6 (Bernama) -- The Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia will sign a tripartite anti-terror cooperation pact when President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo flies to Kuala Lumpur tomorrow.

The signing highlights the one-day working visit of Arroyo who will be delivering a keynote address at the 35th international general meeting of the Pacific Basin Economic Council (PBEC).

The accord involves intensified joint border patrols and intelligence sharing among the three Asean allies aimed at restricting the movement of terrorists across national borders.

Arroyo and Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will witness the signing of the pact after their bilateral meeting to discuss recent developments in Mindanao.

From Malaysia, Arroyo will head to Thailand for a two-day official visit.

The PBEC is a regional economic group composed of senior business executives representing some 1,200 corporations from more than 25 economies around the Pacific rim, including the United States, China and Japan.

Malaysia is the first country Arroyo visited after she assumed office last year.

The PBEC meeting will discuss emerging business opportunities and trade issues given forecasts that the global economy is on a rebound from a slump brought about by the Sept 11 attacks on the US. -- BERNAMA

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