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Mahathir-Depart/BM (Pix)

DR MAHATHIR LEAVES FOR ASEM MEETING

SEPANG, Sept 21 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad left for Copenhagen today to attend the 4th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM IV) which will be held from Sept 22-24.

Dr Mahathir, accompanied by his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, departed from the KL International Airport here at 1.30am.

Present at the airport to see him off were Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and several ministers.

Dr Mahathir is leading a delegation which includes Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar and officials from the Foreign Ministry, Finance Ministry and International Trade and Industry Ministry.

Leaders from the two continents are expected to discuss new international security issues in the aftermath of Sept 11, international terrorism and transnational crimes.

The meeting will also discuss measures to improve the world economic situation through cooperation in trade and investment by implementing concrete objectives in trade facilitation, according to a Wisma Putra statement.

The Prime Minister is expected to hold bilateral talks with some of his ASEM counterparts.

ASEM I was held in Bangkok in 1996, ASEM II in London in 1998 and ASEM III in Seoul in 2000. The Asian members of ASEM are Brunei, China, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, the Philippines, South Korea, Singapore, Vietnam and Thailand.

Their European counterparts are Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Britain and the European Commission.

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MUN AFY YBY