

24 APR 2002

MALAYSIA-PBEC HOST

MALAYSIA TO HOST PBEC MEETING IN MAY

KUALA LUMPUR, April 24 (Bernama) -- Malaysia has been given the honour to host the 35th Pacific Basin Economic Council International General Meeting (PBEC IGM) which will be held for two days starting from May 6, 2002.

In a statement today, PBEC Malaysia Secretariat said that the PBEC IGM would serve as a platform for the international business community to develop an action-oriented agenda aimed at enhancing regional cooperation.

With its theme "Striving for Growth in a Challenging Environment", it also sets the stage for debate on wide-ranging issues pertaining to achieving economic prosperity in an ever-changing and challenging business environment.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, President of the Philippines will be the main speakers.

Heads of Government, leaders of international organisations and senior key decision makers throughout the Asia Pacific will convene to discuss the best policies and strategies to promote faster growth in the Pacific Basin.

Issues such as the need for greater regional security cooperation, the emergence of China as a global economic powerhouse and the stagnation Japan is facing will be delved into.

The impact of the ASEAN Free Trade Area, the larger East Asia Grouping now under consideration, and moves to establish a Free Trade Area of the Americas will also be examined.

PBEC is an international association of senior business leaders representing more than 1,100 major corporations in 20 economies around the Pacific, which account for more than US\$4 trillion (RM15.2 trillion) in global sales. -- BERNAMA

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