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PBEC-HOST

M'SIA TO HOST PBEC MEETING FOR SECOND TIME

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 6 (Bernama) -- Malaysia will be hosting the Pacific Basin Economic Council (PBEC) 35th International General Meeting with the theme "Striving for Growth in a Challenging Environment".

The five-day meeting will begin here on May 3rd.

This is the second time Malaysia will be hosting the region's most prominent international business meeting since 1994, said PBEC's chairman Malaysia Datuk Azman Hashim.

He said that the conference will be tackling issues such as the security dimension of economic growth, new developments in trade and investment liberalisation, as well as industry overviews of the biotechnology and financial market.

"It promises to be a thought-provoking and influential meeting. It will also serve as a platform for key regional decision makers to establish the best policies and strategies to return the Pacific Basin to solid and sustainable rates of growth," he told a press briefing here today.

He said that the meeting will be an opportunity for the region's foremost corporate executives to gather with other international leaders to discuss, in a frank and intimate setting, the key issues affecting the regional economy.

PBEC will also play a crucial role in policy recommendations and statements directed toward organisations such as the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC).

Among the highlights of the meeting will be addresses given by heads of government, ministers, leaders of prominent international organisations, and senior executives of some of the largest corporations in the region.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will deliver a keynote address on May 6, 2002.

Last year's meeting was held in Tokyo and included notable speakers such as Japan's Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori, Malaysian Minister of International Trade and Industry Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz, and Korean Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Economy Jin Nyum.

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 and employ more than 10 million people. -- BERNAMA

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