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`In Conversation' with Abdullah

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - The second season of TV3's "In Conversation" will begin tomorrow at 10pm with an interview with Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

More than 300 million people will be able to watch the programme, made with the co-operation of four Asean television stations and features interviews with regional leaders.

Abdullah will answer questions about the leadership change in Malaysia when he succeeds Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad as Prime Minister in October.

He will also be asked about Malaysia's foreign policy, its fight against terrorism, stand on globalisation and bilateral relationships with Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand.

The hour-long programme is produced by TV3's News and Current Affairs Department and other stations taking part are iTV Thailand, RCTI Indonesia and Philippines' ABS-CBN.

Leaders who have been interviewed are Dr Mahathir, Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, Philippine President Gloria Arroyo and Indonesian People's Consultative Council Speaker Dr Amien Rais.

Among other leaders who will be interviewed are British Prime Minister Tony Blair, Pakistani President General Pervez Musharraf and Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee.

"In Conversation" will also invite guests like World Trade Organisation secretary-general Dr Supachai Panitchpakde, United Nations secretary-general Kofi Annan and Asean secretary-general Rudolfo Saverino.

The episode featuring Abdullah will be hosted by News and Current Affairs senior general manager Datuk Chamil Wariya, who will be joined by RCTI executive news producer Roy Tindage, ABS-CBN chief correspondent Korina Sanchez and iTV foreign editor Chairat Thomya.