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Mahathir-ASEM

PM TO ATTEND FOURTH ASIA-EUROPE MEETING IN COPENHAGEN

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 20 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will lead the Malaysian delegation to the 4th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM IV) in Copenhagen on Sept 22-24, Wisma Putra said today.

It said in a statement issued here that Dr Mahathir will be accompanied by Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali.

"The Malaysian delegation will include the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar, officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Finance and Ministry of International Trade and Industry," it said.

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, Republic of 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.

During the meeting, the 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 discuss measures to improve the world economic situation through cooperation in trade and investment by implementing concrete objectives in trade facilitation, it said.

"The summit will focus its discussion on cooperation in the fields of education, human resource development, long-term social cohesion and environmental cooperation," said the statement.

Wisma Putra said that during the summit, the leaders will also attend a luncheon retreat to discuss cultures and civilizations to give them an opportunity to understand differences between the cultures and civilizations that exist in the two regions.

The meeting is also expected to discuss the Korean peninsula, ASEAN+3 and enlargement of the European Union.

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

-- BERNAMA

AT AHH RM