

15 JAN 2003
NAM-BUSINESS
BUSINESS FORUM TO RUN ALONGSIDE XII NAM

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 15 (Bernama) -- A business forum on the South-South cooperation has been slotted to run alongside the XII Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit, to be held here from Feb 20-25.

Regarded as the Non-Aligned Movement Business Forum on South-South Cooperation, it is intended to strengthen business and economic cooperation among the nations of the South, the official NAM website said.

It said the two-day NAM Business Forum, beginning Feb 23, would bring together entrepreneurs, heads of industry, professionals and corporate managers to discuss opportunities for business collaboration, trade links and smart partnerships.

The forum will address issues, challenges and prospects arising from globalisation while emphasis will be placed on ways the private sector can contribute towards bridging the digital divide.

"Business match-making sessions, specific country workshops and sectoral sessions will also facilitate business interaction and interchange of ideas and information," the website said.

The business forum is organised by the Asian Strategy and Leadership Institute in association with the Foreign Ministry and the Malaysia South-South Association (MASSA).

The business forum will be held at the Sunway Lagoon Resort Hotel while the 13th edition of the NAM Summit will be held at the Putra World Trade Centre.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is expected to deliver a keynote address at the business forum entitled "Building a New World Order -- Sustaining Peace, Sharing Global Prosperity" on Feb 23.

The opening ceremony is expected to be followed by a special NAM leaders' session focussing on "Remaking NAM, Enhancing Cooperation, Building Bridges".

A special ministerial session entitled "Facilitating Trade and Investment Links Among South-South Countries: The Way Forward" will be held in the evening of the first-day of the forum.

Several business sessions are planned on the second and final day of the forum and topics put forth will include "Bridging the Development, Trade and Digital Divide -- How South-South Countries Can Enhance Cooperation, Global Governance and Capacity Building in the Face of Globalisation" and "Rebuilding Competitiveness, Sustaining Economic Growth - A Future Model for Cooperation and Development".

The forum will dwell on peace with an eminent statesperson who has yet to be named, the NAM website said.

It is expected to be attended by delegates from some 50 nations of NAM. For NAM related stories see also www.nam2003.com -- BERNAMA

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