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APEC-MAHATHIR

DR MAHATHIR TO GIVE HIS VIEWS ON GLOBALISATION AT APEC CEO SUMMIT

By: Arul Rajoo

BANGKOK, Oct 17 (Bernama) -- The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) CEO Summit 2003, to be attended by many leaders and more than 500 business people around the world, will enable Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to give his views on globalisation at the world stage before he retires at the end of the month.

Dr Mahathir, who is expected to arrive here on Sunday, has been listed as one of the three members of a panel on "Globalisation and its challenges, how do we manage the growing economic and cultural divides? What policy choices do we have in responding effectively to globalisation".

The Prime Minister will share the stage with his New Zealand counterpart Helen Clark and Chilean President Ricardo Lagos where they would have a dialogue with the participants on Monday.

The moderator for the session is Timothy Ong, chairman of Asia Inc Forum and co-chairman of APEC CEO Summit.

The three leaders are among the 21 leaders from APEC to attend the annual gathering scheduled on Monday and Tuesday here.

Other leaders scheduled to address the CEO summit are Russian President Vladimir Putin, his Chinese counterpart Hu Jintao and US Secretary of State Colin Powell.

Dr Mahathir has a tight schedule during his three-day stay here, beginning with the Asean-7 leaders working luncheon hosted by Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra on Sunday.

The other Asean members in APEC are Brunei, Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore and Vietnam.

However, the earlier scheduled meeting between Asean leaders and US President George W. Bush has been scrapped although no reason was given.

Dr Mahathir is scheduled to meet members of the US-Apec Business Coalition, before meeting his Canadian counterpart Jean Chretien and Taiwanese representative, Dr Lee Yuen Tseh.

On Monday, Dr Mahathir, who will be accompanied by his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali during the visit, will join other APEC leaders at the APEC Leaders Retreat at Government House before an audience with the King and Queen of Thailand.

On the second day of the summit, Dr Mahathir will call on Lagos and Mexican President Vicente Fox Qyesada before attending the second Retreat.

At the end of the meeting, he will hold a press conference at the Queen Sirikit National Convention Centre, which is the venue for ministerial meeting and APEC Press Centre, before leaving for Jogjakarta. -- BERNAMA

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