

20 AUG 2003

INAUGURAL ASIAN YOUTH DIALOGUE ON AUG 29-31

PUTRAJAYA, Aug 20 (Bernama) -- Some 200 local and foreign youths are expected to participate in the inaugural Asian Youth Dialogue (AYD) 2003 to be held in Kuala Lumpur on Aug 29-31.

Deputy Home Minister Datuk Chor Chee Heung said today that the dialogue, themed "Asian Youth Towards Borderless Cooperation," was to acknowledge and recognise the government's continued initiative to nurture youth leaders of vision and calibre.

The dialogue was aimed, among others, at enhancing the networking of regional and international youth entities and linking up Malaysian youth organisations with international government organisations and youth-based non-governmental organisations in the region, he told a news conference, here.

It was also to establish a multilateral platform for youth leaders in the region to discuss critical issues affecting the youth in the social and economic fields.

The dialogue, co-organised by the Youth and Sports Ministry and the Malaysian Youth Council, was expected to be opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, he added.

The participants would also tour Melaka and call on Chief Minister Datuk Ali Rustam, who is also president of the World Assembly of Youth.

-- BERNAMA

RIZ JK