

09 OCT 2003  
OIC-Business  
KOFI ANNAN TO ADDRESS OIC BUSINESS FORUM

PUTRAJAYA, Oct 9 (Bernama) -- United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan is scheduled to deliver a special address at the OIC Business Forum here next Wednesday.

He will address the forum for 10 minutes from 9.20am, according to the forum organiser, the Asian Strategy and Leadership Institute (Asli).

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will open the two-day forum at 5pm the same day, it said in a statement here.

Held in conjunction with the 10th Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Summit, the business forum, among others, will address the challenges confronting the Muslim societies arising from globalisation, bridging the digital divide and smart partnership between public and private sectors.

The dynamics of Islamic financial instruments and their global potential, harnessing media and communications technology, managing risks and diversity as well as promoting economic integration for the benefit of the Muslim ummah will also be highlighted at the forum, to be held at the Putrajaya Marriot Hotel.

The business forum, to be attended by government leaders, captains of industry, regional experts, professionals and corporate managers, will also be a platform to promote multilateral support.

"With a combined population of over one billion people and endowed with rich natural resources, the 57 OIC member nations have a huge potential for economic activities and hold considerable promise of commercial cooperation between them," the statement adds.

The forum will provide ample opportunities to establish contacts with leading international business executives and political leaders as well as promote the voice of modern, progressive Islam in the world on international business.

Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo will be the special speaker at the session on "Global Economy, National Mindset - Securing a Balance" on Wednesday.

Five presidents will speak at the "Special OIC Leaders Forum: Facilitating Growth, Advancing Peace Through Cooperation in the OIC Nations" the same day, the statement says.

They are General Pervez Musharraf (Pakistan), Lt-Gen Omar Hassan Ahmad Al-Bashir (Sudan), Sulejman Tihic (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Muammar Gaddafi (Libya) and Islam Karimov (Uzbekistan).

Islamic Development Bank President Dr Ahmad Mohamed Ali will share his views at the session on "Promoting Sustained Growth and Prospects for Economic Integration Among Muslim Nations".

There will also be workshops on oil and gas, trading and small- and medium-scale enterprises, tourism, infrastructure development and food and food processing during the forum.

-- BERNAMA  
JM AZZ JK