

02 FEB 2003

NAM-Malaysia

NAM SUMMIT,LARGEST INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL EVENT IN MALAYSIA'S HISTORY

By: R.Ravichandran

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 2 (Bernama) -- The forthcoming 13th Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit here is without any doubt the biggest ever international political conference organised by Malaysia.

The majority of the 114-member countries is expected to attend the six day meeting scheduled from Feb 20 to 25 at the Putra World Trade Centre.

The government has sent its ministers to various countries in Africa, Asia and South America to ensure their participation in the NAM summit, which is the largest political forum outside the United Nations, which now has 191 members.

The last major international event organised by Malaysia under Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in October 1989 attended by more than 50 countries.

In the past Malaysia under Dr Mahathir had also hosted the inaugural summit of the Group of Fifteen (G-15) developing nations here in June 1990 as well the seventh G-15 summit in November 1997.

The formation of the G-15 itself was an initiative taken at the ninth NAM summit in Belgrade, Yugoslavia in September 1989. The group which now has 19 members promotes South-South cooperation in trade, investment and technology, besides promoting North-South dialogue.

Malaysia was also the venue for the sixth Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum summit in November 1998. Apec with 21 members now, was established in 1989 as an informal consultative economic forum.

On the regional side, Kuala Lumpur hosted the Second Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) Summit in August 1977.

Malaysia also played host to the second Asean Informal summit here in December 1997.

Two years ago in June 2000, Malaysia welcomed Foreign Ministers of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) to the 27th session of the (OIC) FM meeting at the Palace of the Golden Horses here.

The extraordinary session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers on Terrorism to discuss the issue of terrorism following the global developments of post September 11, was another important international political event organised by Malaysia. It was held in April 2002.

Malaysia had also hosted various regional and international conferences, at ministerial and parliamentary levels besides international forums and dialogues.

Dr Mahathir also took the initiative to organise the Langkawi International Dialogue (LID) to promote South-South Cooperation.

Malaysia, an Islamic State, is scheduled to host the 10th OIC summit in October this year.

The summit is scheduled for Oct 23 and Oct 24 in Putrajaya, Malaysia's Federal administrative capital.

The OIC which has 57 members was established in Rabat, Morocco in 1969, also on the initiative of Malaysia to strengthen Islamic solidarity and promote cooperation in the economic, social and cultural fields.

For NAM related stories, long on to [www.nam2003.com](http://www.nam2003.com)

-- BERNAMA

RV KHY AAM

