

15 JAN 2003

NAM-Business

BUSINESS FORUM TO RUN ALONGSIDE 13TH NAM

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 15 (Bernama) -- A business forum on the South-South cooperation has been slotted to run alongside the 13th Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit here from Feb 20 to 25.

Dubbed 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, captains 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 also be placed on ways the private sector can contribute towards bridging the development and 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 Malaysian Foreign Ministry and the Malaysia South-South Association (MASSA).

The Business Forum will be at the Sunway Lagoon Resort Hotel on Feb 23 while the venue for the 13th NAM Summit is the Putra World Trade Centre.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is scheduled to deliver the opening keynote address at the Business Forum entitled "Building a New World Order -- Sustaining Peace, Sharing Global Prosperity".

The opening ceremony will be followed by a special NAM leaders' session focusing on "Remaking NAM, Enhancing Cooperation, Building Bridges".

A special ministerial session themed "Facilitating Trade and Investment Links Among South-South Countries: The Way Forward" will also 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 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 would also have a conversation on peace with an eminent person but the person had yet to be named, the NAM website said.

The Forum is expected to be attended by delegates from some 50 NAM member nations.

For NAM related stories see also www.nam2003.com

-- BERNAMA

SR MFJ AAM