

30 MAR 2003

Seminar-Mahathir

UAE'S ZAYED CENTRE TO ORGANISE SEMINAR ON DR M'S CONTRIBUTIONS

By: Mohd Haikal Isa

ABU DHABI, March 30 (Bernama) -- The "Zayed Centre for Coordination and Follow Up" in the United Arab Emirates will organise a one-day seminar on the contributions of Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to the Arab and Islamic world on May 15.

Malaysia's Ambassador to the UAE, Datuk Syed Hussein Al-Habshee said the seminar to be jointly organised with the Malaysian embassy would highlight the aspects of Dr Mahathir's administration which had succeeded in bringing high-technology industries to the country.

The seminar would study Dr Mahathir's role in Malaysia's development, his leadership style and contributions to the Arab and Islamic world, he said when met at the embassy here.

Dr Mahathir was well known and highly respected in the Arab world and this had facilitated Malaysia's dealings with Arab countries in the trade and economic fields, he said.

Syed Hussein said former Kedah Menteri Besar Tan Sri Sanusi Junid, who is also President of the International Islamic University (IIU) would be among those tabling working papers at the seminar.

Others would include Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) Deputy Vice-Chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Syed Ahmad Hussein and UAE academics.

Some 100 people comprising diplomats and businessmen from Arab countries are expected to attend the seminar.

He said the conclusions drawn from the seminar would be documented by the Zayed Centre and distributed in the Arab world.

Meanwhile the Editor of UAE's national news agency, WAM, Dr Jamal Al Majaida said the seminar would also highlight the vital importance of Malaysia-UAE bilateral relations and would focus on the successes achieved by Dr Mahathir.

Speaking to the Malaysian media during its visit to the news agency, he said Malaysia's Prime Minister was a well known and respected figure in the Arab world especially for his brave stand against the United States' immoral war against innocent Iraqi civilians.

"Dr Mahathir is one of the most important political figures in the world in this century. He is the only leader in Asia to say no to the US and he is still fighting in Malaysia as well as in the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) grouping to stop the war in Iraq."

"Dr Mahathir has said the war in Iraq is illegal and immoral. He has also played an important role in supporting the Palestinian cause," he said.

The Zayed Centre is operating under the auspices of the Arab League and is chaired by UAE's Deputy Prime Minister Sheikh Sultan Bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

-- BERNAMA

MHI KHY AAM