

Tokyo summit for Pak Lah and Dr M

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KUALA LUMPUR: Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad will make a joint appearance on the international stage at the coming 10th Nikkei Conference in Tokyo.

The Prime Minister will deliver the opening keynote address for the conference, themed *The Future of Asia - Laying the Groundwork for Asian Regional Integration*, on June 3.

A Q&A session with Abdullah will follow.

The other leaders who have confirmed their participation at the conference are Vietnamese Prime Minister Phan Van Khai,

Thai Foreign Minister Surakiat Sathirathai and Singapore's Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew.

Dr Mahathir, who delivered last year's main address in his final appearance as PM at the conference, will speak at a panel discussion with former Philippine president Fidel Ramos and former Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone on the theme *Entrusting the Dream to Asia's Next Generation*.

Japanese diplomatic officials told *The Star* that the coming conference would be a special forum for government leaders and prominent executives from Asia to present their latest ideas

for bringing positive and lasting change to the region.

Participants will also discuss issues in Asia and share their visions for the future. Leaders from Asean and Japan will gather at the conference to talk about issues of mutual interest.

The chairman of the Japan Association of Corporate Executives, Kakutaro Kitashiro, will be among the main private sector officials.

Abdullah is later scheduled to meet his Japanese counterpart, Junichiro Koizumi, for bilateral talks. Dr Mahathir, who will be conferred an honorary doctorate by the Keio University, is already in Japan.