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Oana-Assembly

BERNAMA TO HOST GATHERING OF ASIA PACIFIC NEWS AGENCIES

KUALA LUMPUR, June 3 (Bernama) -- About 100 delegates from 27 news agencies of 24 countries will attend the 12th General Assembly of the Organisation of Asia-Pacific News Agencies (Oana) here from Monday.

The two-day assembly, to be hosted by national news agency Bernama, will be the largest such gathering in the organisation's 42-year history.

Meetings of the organisation's Executive Board and the Editorial and Technical Experts Group will also be held, Bernama said in a statement here today.

Eight representatives of media organisations in Africa, the Mediterranean and the Balkan regions will also be attending.

The agencies attending include ITAR-TASS of Russia, which currently holds the presidency of Oana, Anadolu of Turkey, Saudi Press Agency (SPA) of Saudi Arabia, Press Trust of India (PTI), Xinhua of China, Islamic Republic News Agency (Irna) of Iran, Qatar News Agency (QNA), Kyodo and Jiji Press, both of Japan, Australian Associated Press (AAP), Kabar of Kyrgyzstan, Kazinform and Khabar, both of Kazakhstan, and Saba of Yemen.

The others are Kuwait News Agency (Kuna), Thai News Agency (TNA), Antara of Indonesia, Vietnam News Agency (VNA), Montsame of Mongolia, Yonhap of South Korea, United News of Bangladesh (UNB), Syrian Arab News Agency (Sana), Ria Novosti of Russia, WAM of the Emirates, Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) of North Korea, Oman News Agency (ONA) and hosts Bernama.

The observers are representatives from the Albanian Telegraphic Agency (ATA), the Mozambique News Agency (AIM), the Federation of Arab News Agencies (Fana), the Alliance of Mediterranean News Agencies (Aman), New Zealand Press Association (NZPA), Bua News of South Africa and the Association of Balkan News Agencies (Abna). Unesco will also send a representative.

The assembly, themed "Moving Forward in the New Millennium", will discuss ways of strengthening the mechanism for the exchange of news, information and visuals between and among the member agencies.

It is expected to discuss and adopt the Kuala Lumpur Declaration which, among other things, spells out ways of improving the flow of news and information through the use of the latest advances in Information Communication Technology (ICT).

The assembly at Hotel Istana will be opened by Information Minister Datuk Paduka Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadzir on Monday morning. The minister will also host a dinner for the delegates that evening.

Former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad will be the special guest of honour and speaker at a dinner hosted jointly by the New Straits Times, The Star and the Utusan Group at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel on Tuesday where he will share his thoughts on the role of the media in shaping the global scenario.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar will speak to the gathering on Malaysia's foreign policy on Tuesday morning.

Bernamea General Manager Datuk Syed Jamil Jaafar will assume the presidency of Oana at the conclusion of the assembly and Bernama will serve as its secretariat for the next three years.

-- BERNAMA

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