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DR MAHATHIR IN SRI LANKA IN MAY

By: Feizal Samath

COLOMBO, Jan 29 (Bernama) -- Former Malaysian Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, one of Asia's most successful leaders, is heading for Sri Lanka for the first time, attending CIMA Sri Lanka's global summit in May as its keynote speaker.

Also slated to speak at the same CIMA global leaders summit 2005, titled "Passion for Perfection" is former Pakistani cricket team captain Imran Khan.

Popularly known as Dr Mahathir, the former prime minister, architect of Malaysia's economic boom, has not visited Sri Lanka before, according to a spokesman of the Malaysian High Commission in Colombo.

He said they have not received the official itinerary of the visit.

Dr Mahathir and Khan will be part of an Asian and Sri Lankan business leaders taking part in the high-profile two-day summit beginning May 26 at the BMICH.

The conference is expected to attract 1,000 attendees at the opening, of which 700 delegates, both local and international, would take part in the technical sessions, CIMA officials said.

Among the paper presenters are Sri Lankan-born Raj Rajaratnam, founder and Managing Partner of the US-based The Galleon Group and one of the biggest investors in the Colombo bourse, Malaysia's Tony Fernandes, Director and Group Chief Executive Officer of AirAsia Berhad and Sri Lanka's Priyan Fernando, Executive Vice-President and Chief Operating Officer of Global Business Travel of American Express Company.

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