

14/06/2003

Meet on challenges to palm oil industry

THE Incorporated Society of Planters will hold a three-day conference starting next Monday to discuss future challenges that will be facing the palm oil industry.

The fourth International Planters Conference 2003 is expected to be launched by Primary Industries Minister Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has been invited to deliver a keynote address on "Globalisation and the World Economy".

Conference Technical Committee chairman M.R. Chandran said sustainability is also emerging as the top global business challenge.

Palm oil today dominates the international edible oil trade and contributes more to the diet of the world population than any other oil crop, he said.

Against this backdrop, implications of agricultural globalisation, which is now a fact of life, on the palm oil business and the movement of its products in the world trading system will be discussed, Chandran said in a statement issued in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Some 800 participants from 10 countries will be attending the conference which will debate, among others, the impact of the industry on the world economy, its relationship with tropical agriculture and efficient utilisation of resources.

Prominent speakers in the fields of globalisation, agriculture, oil palm and the environment have also been invited.

They include Unilever International Plantations Group former chairman Datul Leslie Davidson, Sawit Mas Group Indonesia chief executive officer Tan Keng Tong, and Worlwide Fund for Nature Switzerland programme director Thomas Vellacott.