



TOWARDS A SAFER WORLD: Dr Mahathir delivering a speech during the launch of the Perdana Global Peace Forum in Putrajaya, yesterday. — AFP picture

Forum to push for global peace

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PUTRAJAYA, Mon. — Malaysia hopes to create a global momentum promoting peaceful solutions to resolve conflicts.

Towards this end, an inaugural international peace forum, the "Perdana Global Peace Forum", has been planned for Kuala Lumpur in December.

The three-day forum beginning Dec 15 at the Putra World Trade Centre is organised by Perdana Leadership Foundation (PLF).

PLF president Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the forum would serve as an international platform to deliberate on current world conflicts through discourses that would provide ways and means to advance peace for a better and safer world.

Speaking after launching the forum's logo at the PLF here today, Dr Mahathir said the forum was timely in view of the increasing tension worldwide, escalating terrorism, religious intolerance, relentless environment degradation and "sys-

tematic" violation of human rights.

Also present were his wife Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali and PLF chairman Tan Sri Azman Hashim.

The forum will provide participants with a platform to understand the diverse roots of conflicts and the links between peace and security, poverty and environmental degradation.

Dr Mahathir said forum speakers would include Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, his deputy Datuk Seri Najib Razak, himself, former Australia Prime Minister Bob Hawke, UK MPs George Galloway and Clare Short, former United Nations humanitarian co-ordinator for Iraq and former UN assistant secretary-general Tariq Ali, adviser to the office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Professor Christine Chinkin and former UN assistant secretary-general and UN humanitarian co-ordinator for Iraq Denis Halliday.

Dr Mahathir said: "This is not a forum where people say things and then just go

off. We will be talking a lot about wars.

"We should make everybody aware of how damaging and terrible a war can be so that those who have experienced war and those who have not will want peace."

Dr Mahathir expressed hope that non-governmental organisations and other bodies that could promote peace and create a strong anti-war feeling could be formed.

"Hopefully, this forum will be the start of a worldwide campaign for peace, not only involving NGOs but also religious bodies and others.

"We have some ideas on how conflicts can be resolved.

"I hope this will not be a one-off conference but the start of a movement for peace across the world.

"I think we can start (the movement).

"We have the credibility and our success in tackling insurgency should not be dismissed. "Malaysians can definitely show the way."

Dr Mahathir said the forum would be an annual affair.