



GROUP SHOT: Dr Mahathir, wife Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali and Lee (seated next to Dr Mahathir) posing with the representatives of the corporate sponsors yesterday.

Abdullah, Hawke to speak at Perdana Peace Forum

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PUTRAJAYA: Thirty-five speakers of renown have confirmed their participation in the Perdana Global Peace Forum in Kuala Lumpur next month.

Among them are former Australian prime minister Bob Hawke, British MP George Galloway, former UN assistant secretary-general Denis Halliday, Pakistan-born Britain-based writer and filmmaker Tariq Ali, University of Illinois professor of law Francis Boyle, and Hans Von Sponeck, also a former UN assistant secretary-general.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak will also be among the key speakers.

The forum is a Malaysian initiative mooted by former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is the honorary

president of the Perdana Leadership Foundation.

Several business corporations have come forward to support the forum in the form of sponsorship.

Ambank Group, Berjaya Corporation Bhd, Country Heights Holdings Bhd, Kuala Lumpur Kepong Bhd, Malayan Banking Bhd, Multi-Purpose Holdings Bhd, Sri Inderajaya Holdings Sdn Bhd, The Sunway Group and Sapura Group of Companies contributed RM200,000 each.

At a ceremony yesterday, representatives from these organisations, which are platinum "Partners for Peace" handed over the cheques to Dr Mahathir, who is also chairman of the forum.

Gold, silver and bronze partners of the forum are those with sponsorship deals of

RM125,000, RM75,000 and RM50,000, respectively.

Other corporations are also supporting the forum with contributions in kind.

Perdana Leadership Foundation's Board of Trustees executive committee member Tan Sri Lee Kim Yew, said a "peace secretariat" would be set up within the Perdana Leadership Foundation to follow up on activities to promote peace.

The forum's collaborators, Peace Malaysia and the Malaysian World Peace Foundation, will hold several pre-conference programmes with support from non-governmental organisations.

More information on the forum which takes place from Dec 15 to 17 at the Putra World Trade Centre is available at www.perdana4peace.org.