

# Pak Lah at Asean Summit

PM will have series  
of meetings in Cebu

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**CEBU CITY:** Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi will be arriving here today to join his Asean counterparts and other leaders of the regional grouping at the Asean Summit and related meetings, to be held over four days beginning tomorrow.

The summit was originally scheduled for Dec 11 to 13 last year, but was postponed as Typhoon Utor was heading for the Philippines then.

The Prime Minister will be accompanied by Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar and International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz as well as senior officials from various ministries and agencies.

Abdullah will have a busy schedule here, attending various summits on the sidelines, including the Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippine-East Asean Growth Area Summit, and the second Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand-Growth Triangle Summit.

He will be joined by host President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, Brunei's Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah, Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudho-

yono, Laotian Prime Minister Bouasone Bouphavanh, Myanmar Prime Minister Lt Gen Soe Win, Singapore premier Lee Hsien Loong, Thai Prime Minister Gen Surayud Chulanont and Vietnam's Nguyen Tan Dung.

Leaders of Asean's dialogue partners - Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun, Australian Prime Minister John Howard, New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark and Indian premier Manmohan Singh have confirmed attendance.

Abdullah will also attend the Asean Summit special session on HIV and AIDS and the East Asia Summit, apart from several bilateral meetings.

There will also be a meeting between the Eminent Persons Group and Asean leaders to look into the proposed recommendations for an Asean Charter. The leaders, during their meeting in Kuala Lumpur last year, had assigned the group to formulate recommendations for a charter.

The summit will also witness Timor Leste and France acceding to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation, to joining India, China, Japan, South Korea and New Zealand among others.