

Fairer cooperation helps APEC deal with disruption - Dr M

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From Mohd Iswandi Kasan Anuar

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea, Nov 17 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad says fairer and more genuine cooperation between developed and developing nations could help APEC member states to deal with disruption.

He stressed that only with a "win-win" concept among APEC members can the region chart a common and inclusive future in the Age of Disruption.

"We have gone too far in free trade and economic integration to let them go under in this age of disruption. What we need to do is to adjust to it and from there build new partnerships and agreements to suit the changes," he said.

In his remarks at the APEC CEO Summit Session on Saturday, he said: "What is worrying is not the strategy but the speed it is required to be implemented in order to be effective. It is a new frontier, mostly still uncharted."

Dr Mahathir, who begins his hectic two-day official visit here for the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting, said APEC will also have to deal with this disruption, failing which it too will become irrelevant.

During the 30-minute session held on the Pacific Explorer cruise ship, he said his government will focus on development that is inclusive and equitable to achieve the goals of a united country.

"We want to ensure that every citizen in Malaysia enjoys shared prosperity," he said, adding that APEC should also promote the concept of shared prosperity among its member states.

"I believe in the adage 'prosper thy neighbour' and not 'beggar thy neighbour'. Everyone gains from the former, while only one side gains from the latter."

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