



MALAYSIAN PRIME MINISTER MAHATHIR TO ADDRESS ASIA-PACIFIC BUSINESS LEADERS IN KUALA LUMPUR

HONOLULU (February 21, 2002) — The Honorable Dato' Seri Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamad, Prime Minister of Malaysia, will deliver the opening keynote address of the Pacific Basin Economic Council's (PBEC) 35th International General Meeting (IGM) in Kuala Lumpur on Monday, May 6, 2002.

Leading business executives, heads of government, and governmental ministers from throughout Asia, the Pacific, and the Americas will gather at the conference to discuss international economic and trade issues. The conference – focusing on the theme of “Striving for Growth in a Challenging Environment” – will be held May 3-7.

The fourth Prime Minister of Malaysia, The Honorable Dr. Mahathir began his career in medicine, but was active in politics for over six decades, serving as Senator, Minister of Education, Minister of Trade and Industry, and Deputy Prime Minister before ascending to his current post in July 1981. Under his leadership, Malaysia has quickly grown into a bonafide Asian economic tiger.

Dr. Mahathir — who has published a number of books and articles on topics ranging from small business to post-crisis Asian economics — has built a solid reputation as one of the world's most provocative and insightful speakers on globalization and the international trading system.

An ambitious conference agenda has been developed, tackling issues such as: the security dimension of economic growth, new developments in trade and investment liberalization; as well as industry overviews including the biotechnology and financial markets. There will also be breakfast chats with global personalities – ranging from business leaders to media experts to artists – and private, off-the-record Ministerial Roundtables are planned.

PBEC's International General Meeting is an opportunity for the region's foremost corporate executives to gather with other international leaders to discuss, in a frank and intimate setting, the key issues in the regional economy, and to publicly issue policy recommendations and statements directed toward such organizations as the WTO and the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC). The IGM typically includes major addresses given by heads of government, governmental ministers, leaders of prominent international organizations, and senior executives of some of the largest corporations in the region.

Last year's IGM was held in Tokyo and included such notable speakers as Japanese Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori, Malaysian Minister of International Trade and Industry Dato' Seri Rafidah Aziz, and Korean Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Economy Jin Nyum. The Crown Prince and Princess of Japan also attended the opening ceremony.

#

Contact: Steve Olson, Pacific Basin Economic Council
900 Fort Street, Suite 1080
Honolulu, HI 96813 USA
Tel.: +1-808-521-9044/Fax: +1-808-521-8530
E-Mail: steve@pbec.org
Web: <http://www.pbec.org>

About PBEC:

- PBEC is an international association of senior business leaders representing approximately 1,000 major corporations in 20 economies around the Pacific, which account for more than US \$4 trillion in global sales and employ more than 10 million people.
- PBEC is a forum through which business leaders create new business relationships, exchange views with government officials, and produce recommendations on key business issues.
- The unprecedented scope of PBEC's membership constitutes a broad and balanced reservoir of international business knowledge, unmatched in credibility and expertise. PBEC is the independent voice of business in the Pacific.