



MALAYSIAN TRADE & INDUSTRY MINISTER TO ADDRESS ASIA-PACIFIC BUSINESS LEADERS IN KUALA LUMPUR

Honolulu (March 16, 2002) — Dato' Seri Rafidah Aziz, Malaysia's Minister of International Trade and Industry, will address delegates at the Pacific Basin Economic Council's (PBEC) 35th International General Meeting (IGM) in Kuala Lumpur on Monday, May 6, 2002.

The Honorable Dato' Seri **Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamad**, Prime Minister of Malaysia, and Her Excellency **Gloria Macapagal Arroyo**, President of the Philippines, will also be delivering keynote addresses at the conference.

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.

Minister Rafidah assumed the post of Minister of International Trade and Industry in 1990. Her previous positions in Malaysian government include: Minister of Trade and Industry, Minister of Public Enterprises, Deputy Minister of Finance, Parliamentary Secretary for Ministry of Public Enterprises (Malaysia's first woman parliamentary secretary), and Economic lecturer at University Malaya.

She has received various awards including the Knight Grand Cross of the Most Exalted Order of the White Elephant from the Thailand government, the Grand Cross of the Order of Mayo from the government of Argentina, and the Legion of Honor Awards of 1997 from the World Assembly of Small and Medium Enterprises.

An ambitious conference agenda has been developed for the Kuala Lumpur IGM, tackling issues such as: the economic aspects of the war on terrorism, 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.

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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.