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2,000 expected at first YPO summit to be held in Asia

By ANNA LEE

PERSONALITIES such as Steve Wozniak, co-founder of Apple, as well as Eduardo Saverin, co-developer of Facebook, will be present at this year's Young Presidents' Organization's (YPO) Global Leadership Summit that will be held in Singapore.

On Feb 29 and March 1, some 2,000 business leaders and delegates representing 82 countries from across the globe will be gathering at the largest summit since its inception in 2002. This is also the first summit to be held in Asia.

The summit will provide a platform for YPO members to engage in dialogue and discussion in areas such as business politics, culture and philanthropy.

Keynote speakers include Mr Wozniak, Mr Saverin as well as Steven Attenborough of Virgin Galactic and Nobel Peace Prize winner Mohammed Yunus, who founded Grameen Bank in Bangladesh.

Commenting on the summit, YPO International chairman Robert Frances of Quebec said: "This will see a cross-fertilisation of ideas with a richness and di-

versity that will be difficult to surpass . . . we are highly confident that participants will walk away with invaluable insights and be enlightened by the best practices of their peers."

YPO - a non-profit global network of young business leaders with a worldwide membership of 19,000 - has a growing base of Asian members. They account for 10 per

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cent of the organisation's strength. "YPO's membership base in Asia has been increasing over the years . . . we feel it is time to bring the summit to the Asian audience," said Hester Chew, CEO of McThai Co Ltd, who is also the summit's host chair.

He added: "The record number of participants who have signed up for this year's summit is proof of the region's attractiveness. Singapore's strong reputation in the global business arena makes it an ideal host for this event."