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MAHATHIR VERY CONVINCED SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION CAN WORK

Mahathir - Wrap up

From Syed Jamil Jaafar

CANCUN (Mexico) , Sept 22 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister ⁹¹ Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Saturday, he is more convinced than ever that-- ^{Tip over} South-South cooperation can work.

+It needs a lot of push but, yes, it can work + he said to Malaysian journalists at a press conference to wrap up his six-day official visit to Mexico. The Prime Minister and his delegation leave for New York today.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said that from his visit to Mexico, Malaysia got to know various opportunities for trade and investment.

+And they got to know us and are as keen to increase economic relations, + the Prime Minister said.

Similarly he said, his recent trip to Chile, Brazil and Argentina opened up tremendous potentials for Malaysia to go into non-traditional markets .--more

♥22/09/13-37MST

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Mahathir - Wrap up 2 Cancun

He said the Latin American countries were a closed market for a very long time but over the past three years had 'opened up'.

The countries used to import only raw materials but are now buying manufactured goods as well.

+All these spell opportunity for Malaysia but nothing can be gained by sitting at home ,+ the Prime Minister said.

+It's all up to us. Why would people come to us? We have to go to them ,+he added .

The Prime Minister said, initially there might be problems such as transportation in trying to increase economic and trade relations with the Latin American countries but these could be solved'. -- more.

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Mahathir - Wrap up 3 Cancun

He noted that President Carlos Salinas, with whom he had formal and informal discussions, was keen for Mexico to have air links with Malaysia.

He said some of the private sector representatives accompanying him on the visit were also staying back to further explore business, opportunities.

The Mexican government has already given approval for the establishment of a palm oil processing facility here.

The Prime Minister also said Malaysia might have to invest abroad such as in the Latin American countries to secure markets for its products.

+To sell rubber and palm oil, for example, we may have to go into downstream investment in places like Mexico ,+ he said. -- more

Mahathir - Wrap up 4 Cancun (last)

+Malaysia has to invest to the extent that it benefits us,+ he said when asked whether Malaysia itself was emerging as a foreign investor while seeking outside investments to come to the country. "

+But I think we already have quite a plateful at the moment,+ he said.

The Prime Minister and Datuk Seri Datin Paduka Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamad Ali today toured the site of the ruins of the ancient Mayan civilisation at Tulum, 120 kilometre from this resort city on the Yucatan peninsular. He also visited the Puerto Aventuras tourism complex.

In, **New York**, **the** Prime Minister will address the United' Nations (on Sept 24) and speak to the American Business Council, the Asia Society and the American Institute on Foreign Relations.

He will. also meet President Roh Tae-Woo of, South 'Korea, former -US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and editors and publishers of several newspapers. -- Bernama

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