

# Dr M EXTENDS A HAND TO HANOI

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By V.K. CHIN

**HANOI: Malaysia is ready to share with Vietnam its development experience and to provide assistance in the field of rubber technology, management, administration and technical training.**

At the same time, it hopes Malaysian entrepreneurs and businessmen will be accepted as genuine and sincere partners in Vietnam's economic development.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad made these remarks at the official dinner given in his honour by his Vietnamese counterpart Vo Van

*(P) Dr Mahathir Trip Overseas*  
Kiet here last night.

Dr Mahathir, who arrived yesterday for a five-day official visit, said he was glad the seeds sown so far in their economic co-operation were beginning to bear fruit.

The volume of trade had increased substantially over the last two years and several Malaysian corporate groups such as Petronas, Public Bank and Golden Hope have established their presence in Vietnam.

"Though progress in the field of trade and economic co-operation has been encouraging, vast potentials are yet to be tapped," Dr Mahathir said.

"We must continue to build upon the success we have achieved for our mutual benefit.

"The fact that I have brought with me a large delegation from the private sector bears testimony to the seriousness of our desire to see relations between our two countries accelerate to greater heights.

"It is my hope Malaysian entrepreneurs and businessmen would be accepted as genuine and sincere partners in the economic development of Vietnam."

Dr Mahathir said Vietnam would require enormous amounts of capital and trained manpower and he pledged Malaysia's readiness to share its experience and provide assistance in rubber technology, management, administration and technical training.

"We do so in the spirit of friendship and co-operation."

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# PM: We must work together

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tion and in the firm belief that economically stable and prosperous neighbours will contribute positively to the peace and security of the region," he said.

"We also do so in the firm conviction that present-day Vietnam is sincere in wanting to live in peace and co-operation with its neighbours and participate fully as a responsible member of the South-East Asian community."

Dr Mahathir said recent developments had convinced countries in the region they had no choice but to work together closely.

The end of the East-West confrontation and the emergence of new political and economic groupings, each concerned with its own regional interest first, made it all the more necessary and urgent for South-East and East Asia nations to come together and plan for the future on a regional basis.

He said: "Failure to do so would put us at a disadvantage."

He said an Asean 10 comprising the present six member states and all other South-East Asian countries would provide a truly formidable force of peace, progress and stability in the entire region.

On bilateral relations, he said only two outstanding issues remained — the question of Vietnamese boat people in Malaysia and the overlapping claims in the South China Sea.

He was confident with friendship and understanding these issues would be settled quickly in the manner they had envisaged together.

Earlier, the Vietnamese leader said Malaysia had been quite willing to share its experiences with Vietnam.

"Many ministers, senior officials, experts and businessmen of the two countries had met with one another, mutual understanding and trust had been strengthened and business opportunities explored.

Dr Mahathir was given a red-carpet welcome at the Presidential Palace where he inspected a guard of honour.