

CNS6017

R GE 23-09 00186 EA420

aae tbe

MALAYSIA, IRELAND IDENTIFY AREAS OF CO-OPERATION

Mahathir-economic

From Abdul Rahman Sulaiman

Dublin, Sept 23, (Bernama) -- Malaysia and Ireland have identified several areas of possible co-operation aimed at further enhancing bilateral ties and accelerating their economic progress.

The areas include education, tourism, trade and investment, civil aviation, consultancy as well as other forms of services.

This was agreed to by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his Irish counterpart Albert Reynolds during talks here on Tuesday.

The two prime ministers told a joint press conference at the end of the one-and-a-half hour meeting, also attended by their senior ministers, that they had agreed that followup discussions would be held by officials of the two countries later to work out the mechanisms for co-operation.

Malaysian ministers present at the meeting were Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Leong Sik, Primary Industries Minister Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik, International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz and Negeri Sembilan Menteri Besar Tan Sri Mohd Isa Abdul Samad. -- more

▼23/09/12-32MST

CNS6018

R GE 23-09 00165 EA421

aae tbe

Mahathir-economic 2 Dublin

The Irish prime minister was joined by his ministers for Education, Tourism, Transport and Trade.

Describing the outcome of the meeting as substantial, Dr Mahathir said there was a possibility that Ireland might be able to take in more Malaysian medical students as places in existing medical faculties of local universities were insufficient to meet the country's need.

Malaysia was grateful of Ireland's readiness to accept Malaysian medical students when Britain decided to reduce its intake of such students several years ago.

At present, there are about 450 Malaysian students in studying in various universities in Ireland, mostly doing medicine and dentistry.

Reynolds said some forms of co-operation between the Irish medical institutions and Malaysian universities could also be worked out.

On trade and investment, the two prime ministers said they both agreed that there was a need to further improve relations in these fields. -- more

▼23/09/12-34MST

CNS6019

R GE 23-09 00200 EA422

aae tbe

- Mahathir-economic 3 (last) Dublin

The present trade balance between the two countries was in Malaysia's favour with its exports totalling 42 million Irish pounds and imports amounting to 25 million Irish pounds a year.

(Current exchange rate is 4.8 Malaysian ringgit to one Irish pound).

Reynolds said he was confident that the imbalance could be rectified in the near future along with an overall increase in the total trade volume.

Dr Mahathir said as Malaysia was eager to increase its exports to the European Community member countries, it would certainly consider using Ireland as a staging point for her exports to Europe, if such a move proved to be advantageous.

On investment, he welcomed Irish participation, on a competitive basis, in the development of major projects in Malaysia, including the new KL International Airport in Sepang.

Reynolds on the other hand, welcomed Malaysian investors to invest here either on their own or in joint venture with Irish businessmen.

Private sector organisations in his country, he said, were also interested in providing consultancy services to their Malaysian counterparts, particularly in the engineering field. -- Bernama

▼23/09/12-38MST