

CNS8999  
U GE 12-05 00199 EA699  
aae tbc

PM-Vietnam  
, (Repeat, correcting ambassador's name in fourth graf)  
STICK TO AGREED PRINCIPLES TO RESOLVE CLAIMS IN SOUTH CHINA SEA, SAYS  
PM

From K.C. Leong

TOKYO. <sup>93</sup> <sup>0\*</sup> Mav12 (Bernama) -- atuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that parties involved in conflicting claims in the South China Sea should stick to principles for resolving them and not introduce new conditions once these principles had been accepted. <sup>Tip 3ve13002</sup>

He conveyed this view to Vietnamese First Deputy Prime Minister Phan Van Khai when the latter called on him at the Hotel Okura here today.

The Prime Minister arrived here yesterday for a six-day visit during which he is scheduled to deliver a keynote address at an international conference on "Asia's Role in the Chanaina World Order" beginning here this evening.

Malaysian Ambassador to Japan Datuk Mohamed Khatib Abdul Hamid, who briefed Malaysian newsmen on the meeting, said Dr Mahathir and Khai exchanged views on the situation in Southeast Asia, especially the issues on conflicting claims in the South China Sea.

Both agreed that all these issues must be resolved through negotiations. -- more

LKC LDB

▼12/05/12-44MST  
CNS8995  
U GE 12-05 00178 EA696  
aae tbc

PM-Vie tnam 2 Tokyo

Dr Mahathir said negotiations must be based on agreed principles and procedures and once these were agreed, the parties concerned should stick to them and not come up with other conditions,

"For example, if it is agreed that the negotiations should be conducted based on legal aspects to resolve the conflicting claims, then parties involved should not introduce a historical basis," Khatib quoted the Prime Minister as saying.

The Prime Minister also said if negotiations were based on accepted and agreed principles, then the negotiations would always be successful.

On the question of bilateral negotiations on overlapping Malaysian and Vietnamese claims in the South China Sea, Dr Mahathir told Khai he would take a personal interest in the issue in the hope that it could be resolved.

He added that Malaysia hoped this issue could be resolved through negotiations as he felt that it was something very important for relations in Southeast Asia as a whole. -- more

, LKC LDB

▼12/05/12-32MST  
U GE 12-05 00177 EA700  
aae tbe  
PM-Vietnam 3 Tokyo

Earlier, Khai conveyed to Dr Mahathir how happy Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet was with his visit to Malaysia in January last year because Hanoi considered its ties with Malaysia a model for relations between nations.

Following the visit, and the one that Dr Mahathir paid to Vietnam in April last year, there was now considerable assistance from Malaysia to Vietnam and this was much appreciated by Hanoi, according to Khatib.

There were now so many Vietnamese officials wanting to visit Malaysia to learn from its development experiences that Hanoi feared their numbers would pose a burden to Malaysia, he said.

As such, Hanoi had been asked to be more specific about the purposes of their intended visits, he added.

Dr Mahathir said he welcomed and would consider any request from Vietnam for training. He was also happy to note that trade between the two countries had increased almost 100 percent since the visits. -- more

LKC LDB

12/05/12 11:00M

CNS9019

U GE 12-05 00177 EA701

aae tbe

PM-Vietnam 4 (last) Tokyo

Malaysian exports to Vietnam had increased from RM64 million in 1991 to RM126.6 million last year? while its imports from that country jumped from RM172 million in 1991 to RM322.1 million last year.

Dr Mahathir also said he was confident that Vietnam with its big population, skilled labour and dedicated people, as well as good organisation and management, could become a very successful and rich country.

"Malaysia would like to see a rich, prosperous and peaceful Vietnam because we can't trade with poor countries," he added.

The Prime Minister would be speaking on the subject of "World Trade; GATT, Groups and Growth" tomorrow. The three-day conference is organised by the New York-based Asia Society.

Other leaders addressing the conference include Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong of Singapore, South Korean Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economic Planning Lee Kyung Shik, Thai Deputy Prime Minister Dr Amnuay Viravan and New Zealand Prime Minister James Bolger. -- Bernama

LKC LDB