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Mahathir- China

MAHATHIR VISITS CHINA'S INDUSTRIAL PROVINCE

from Abdul Rahman Sulaiman⁹³

SHENZHEN. June 20, (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his delegation arrived here this afternoon from Yunnan's provincial capital of Kunming for a two-day visit to China's southern-most industrial Guangdong province. ① Trip overseas

An exceptionally busy schedule awaits the prime minister whose primary purpose of the present 10-day official visit to China is to personally study the country's current economic success, apart from promoting better bilateral economic relations, seeking more investment opportunities and extending trade between the two countries.

Shortly after arrival, Dr Mahathir went on a tour of the Shenzhen Industrial Products Exhibition Centre where a wide range of China's industrial products, largely for export, were on display.

This evening, he met leading members of the People's Government of Shenzhen Municipality during which he was briefed on the economic development of the city with particular emphasis on the administration of its special economic zone.

Situated in the coastal area of the southern part of the Guangdong province, Shenzhen is a major channel for inland China in its trade and contacts with the rest of the world via Hong Kong. -- more

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Mahathir-China 2 (last) Shenzhen

Established in 1979, the Shenzhen special economic zone is well known internationally for its rapid growth and well coordinated development.

The GNP of the zone grew at the average of 47 per cent a year for the past 11 years while its gross industrial output grew at the rate of 66 per cent a year.

By the end of 1991, the total infrastructural investment in the area reached 28.4 billion Yuan (US\$100 is 530 Yuan), its fixed capital estimated at 20 billion Yuan while its industrial production capacity for the same year was 30 billion Yuan.

There are a total of 10 industrial zones in the economic zone which covers an area of 24 million sq metres.

A total of 7,000 industrial and commercial enterprises employing 650,000 people are located in the area.

Tomorrow, Dr Mahathir will address a meeting between Malaysian and Chinese businessmen at the Shangri-la Hotel here, where he and members of his delegation are staying.

Afterwards, he will tour one of the industrial zones in the area, the Shekou Industrial Zone.

The prime minister and selected delegation members will leave for Hainan Island on Tuesday before returning to Kuala Lumpur. -- Bernama

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