

CNS5594

U GE 19-08 00217 EG565

aae tbe

Rptng, changing "Indonesia" to "Indochina" in second para.

Mahathir-Indochina 93

PM CALLS FOR COORDINATED TIES WITH INDOCHINA

(EMBARGO: For use after 10 pm today, Aug 19)

② Trip Overseas

BANGKOK, Aug 19 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has proposed that Malaysia and Thailand, in partnership with other Asean members, coordinate their technical cooperation programmes to help in the development of the Indochina states.

The Prime Minister said Malaysia welcomed the positive developments in Indochina and, like Thailand, saw the need to cooperate with these neighbouring countries to help them achieve a higher level of economic development.

"We have embarked on modest cooperation programmes for these countries," Dr Mahathir said at an official dinner hosted by Thai Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai at Government House here tonight.

Dr Mahathir however said Malaysia's resources were quite limited and it might not be able to meet the needs of the three countries -- Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam.

He said it would be worthwhile for Malaysia and Thailand, possibly in partnership with other Asean members -- Indonesia, Singapore, the Philippines and Brunei --, to coordinate their cooperation programmes for these three countries to ensure optimisation of resources and results. -- more

SJJ MGN

end of rptn

▼19/08/20-34MSF

U GE 19-08 00155 EG563

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Mahathir-Indochina 2 Bangkok (embargo)

Dr Mahathir said that with the successful conduct of general elections under United Nations' supervision in Cambodia, the process of national reconciliation under the leadership of Prince Norodom Sihanouk should be encouraged by all.

He said Prince Sihanouk and his compatriots needed the support of the international community in their efforts to rebuild Cambodia.

The UN must continue to play a role in ensuring peace and stability and help accelerate the country's economic reconstruction.

Dr Mahathir said the plight of the Bosnians, meanwhile, could not be ignored and Malaysia was working actively with other countries to help the Bosnians defend their lives, protect their rights and keep their homeland.

"We believe that more serious efforts have to be done to save Bosnia-Herzegovina and its people from disintegration and total destruction," he said. -- more

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▼19/08/20-11MSF

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Mahathir-Indochina 3 (last) Bangkok

Dr Mahathir thanked Thailand for its support for the East Asia Economic Caucus (EAEC), saying that it was gratifying that Asean had now achieved consensus on the matter.

He said it was now up to the East Asian countries to agree on how EAEC should progress.

"We should now be able to look forward to the convening of the inaugural meeting of EAEC in the near future," he said.

Asean Economic Ministers are expected to meet next month to decide on the structure of the EAEC, a forum mooted by Malaysia to promote free trade.

The Prime Minister also hoped that private sector cooperation could develop into an Asean-wide phenomenon to enhance intra-Asean trade and speed up the realisation of the Asean Free Trade Area (Afta).

Private sector involvement was crucial in ensuring the success of the Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand growth triangle programme, he said. -- Bernama

SJ AU MGN

19/08/20-16MST