

CNS5937

R GE 18-04 00194 EA871

see the

Mahathir-Indochina

MAHATHIR SATISFIED WITH INDOCHINA VISIT

From Abdul Rahman Sulaiman

(e)

Mahathir - overseas trips

94
VIENTIANE, April 18 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad today expressed satisfaction with the outcome of his just-concluded visits to Cambodia and Laos, saying he had succeeded in establishing "good personal contacts" with leaders of the two Indochinese states.

He said he had fruitful meetings with leaders of the two countries and identified several areas of cooperation for mutual benefit.

The Prime Minister told a press conference here at the conclusion of his visit that there were now better prospects for the enhancement of trade between Malaysia and the two countries as well for Malaysian investments here and in Cambodia.

He was confident that from now on there would be more exchange of visits between Malaysian officials and businessmen as a result of his trip.

During his three-day stay here, Dr. Mahathir, who was accompanied by a 23-member official delegation which included his wife Datin Seri Dr. Siti Hasmah Mohd. Ali and 69 Malaysian businessmen, met with the Laotian Prime Minister Khamtay Siphandone. -- more

ARS LDB

18/04/19-02MST

CNS5945

R GE 18-04 00156 EA872

see the

Mahathir-Indochina 2 Vientiane

He pledged to continue to help Laos in its development efforts in the context of regional and South-South cooperation.

They also resolved to continue cooperating with one another for the mutual benefit of both countries.

Two important documents which would further boost investment and trade between the two countries were signed during the visit.

The first was the Bilateral Payments Arrangement agreement between Bank Negara Malaysia and the State Bank of Laos. The accord together with other agreements signed earlier was expected to stimulate economic relations between the two countries.

The other document signed was a Memorandum of Understanding between Tenaga Nasional Berhad and the Laotian electricity authority, Electricite du Laos, which provides for cooperation between the two in the areas of electricity generation, transmission, distribution, system operation, protection, management, organisation development and training. -- more

ARS LDB

18/04/19-07MST

CNS5955

R GE 18-04 00148 EA873

aae tbe

Mahathir-Indochina 3 (last) Vientiane

Both organisations are actively involved in promoting further development of the electrical power industry which forms the basis of economic growth and elevation of living standards in both Laos and Malaysia.

Dr Mahathir said to facilitate travel between the two countries, the government would study the possibility of Malaysia Airlines flying to the Laotian capital.

The two countries had already signed an Air Services Agreement but had yet to implement it.

This morning Dr Mahathir and his delegation visited the Friendship Bridge linking Laos and Thailand across the Mekong River.

He said the newly-opened bridge, built with Australian assistance of A\$40 million, could provide a vital link for Laos with other parts of Southeast Asia, thereby forging closer trade and economic activities in the region. -- more

ARS LDB

▼18/04/19-13MST

R GE 18-04 00138 EA874

aae tbe

Mahathir-Indochina 4 (last) Vientiane

He foresaw greater flow of goods and people among the countries concerned with the opening of the bridge, the completion of Malaysia's North-South Highway, the building of the second link with Singapore, the improvement of highways in Thailand and the construction of major road networks in Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam.

During his visit to Cambodia from April 14 to 16, Dr Mahathir held discussions with Cambodia's first Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh and second Prime Minister Hun Sen.

Both countries agreed to set up a Joint Commission to further enhance bilateral cooperation.

The central banks of both countries are also finalising discussions for the signing of a Bilateral Payments Arrangement agreement to facilitate trade and investment. -- Bernama

ARS LDB