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Australia-values

AUSTRALIA AGREES WITH MALAYSIA TO VALUE AND RESPECT EACH OTHER

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 17 (Bernama) -- Australia agrees with Malaysia that both countries have to respect and value each other for a better relationship in the future, Australian High Commissioner to Malaysia John Dauth said today.

He said the Australian government very much valued the relations with Malaysia on the basis of equality in relationships and mutual respect.

"It is certainly the basis to approach a relationship and I am sure that Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating agrees with this fundamental approach, but we need not say that we agree all the time," he told reporters after sending Keating off at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Subang, near here.

Keating, accompanied by his wife and a 19-member delegation, left Kuala Lumpur for Singapore after a three-day official visit.

Dauth said the visit was important and extremely successful in a couple of important aspects, especially in overcoming any misunderstanding between the two countries.

"Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Keating had an opportunity to meet recently but I think this is the first time that both leaders had the time for a discussion over a couple of days," he said.

He noted that the Australian leader was delighted over the discussion because it were highly practical and focussed.

Both leaders also agreed that it was important for Australian and Malaysian businessmen to explore the business opportunities in the two countries, he added. -- Bernama