

01 AUG 1996

MALAYSIA INVITES AUSTRIA TO JOIN TRANS-ASIA RAILWAY PROJECT

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 1 (Bernama) -- Malaysia has invited Austria to participate in the US900 million (about RM2.25 billion) Trans-Asia Railway project.

Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said cooperation with Austria which has wide expertise in rail transportation would be mutually beneficial.

"I have advised them (Austria) to find a good local partner here. Malaysia is the coordinator for the project and we have to be in the know," he told reporters after a meeting with Austria's Finance Minister Victor Klima at his ministry here.

Dr Ling also said Austria has expressed its interest to invest in the country's rapidly developing transportation activities.

Austria is the manufacturer of Malaysia's first electric train. Jenbacher Transportsysteme AG was commissioned by Keretapi Tanah Melayu Berhad to manufacture and maintain its Komuter trains.

The proposal to build a railway link from Singapore to Beijing was made by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohammed at the last Asean Summit.

The Trans-Asia Railway project will be funded by the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank. -- BERNAMA

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