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FIRST MEETING ON TRANS-ASIA RAIL LINK IN KL ON MONDAY

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 30 (Bernama) -- The first meeting of railway experts and officials on the proposed Trans-Asia Railway link between Singapore and Kunming in China, will be held here on Monday.

Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik will chair the special working group meeting, a ministry statement today said.

It will be attended by 15 experts and officials from Malaysia, Singapore, Myanmar and the Mekong Basin countries of Thailand, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and China.

Dr Ling had earlier said that Monday's meeting would among other things discuss four proposed routes for the rail project from Thailand, through the whole of the Mekong basin to Kunming.

There are already rail links from Singapore through Malaysia to Thailand.

Dr Ling also said that to make the Singapore-Kunming network a reality, billions of ringgit would be needed to lay new tracks, build bridges and tunnels to link-up existing gaps in the Mekong basin countries.

The rail link was proposed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the fifth Asean Summit in Bangkok a year ago. -- BERNAMA

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