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Ling-Maritime

GERMANY TO TRAIN LOCAL MARITIME TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 31 (Bernama) -- Germany has offered to train Malaysian on the radarised vessel traffic separation scheme to help improve traffic flow and pollution control in the Straits of Melaka, Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said today.

He said the government was willing to consider the proposal as the strait was a major source of marine food and tourism revenue for the country.

"The matter would be further studied to determine the areas of training and our needs," Dr Ling told reporters after meeting his German counterpart Matthias Wissmann at his office here.

Germany had also offered to join a consortium proposed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to oversee the funding and development of the Trans-Asia railway project, he said.

Dr Ling, who returned from New Delhi early today after chairing the World Infrastructure Conference-Asia, said the Trans-Asia rail project had received tremendous support from the 42 countries at the conference.

Dr Ling said an experts meeting between all the countries involved would be held here in December to discuss the Trans-Asia link running from Singapore to Kunming in China.

He said the subject of land transport linkages and facilitation of movement of vehicles, goods and passengers across the Asian mainland had received substantial attention.

Further studies were needed on the southern corridors as there were several stretches of missing links, like from Thailand to Myanmar and in Afghanistan, Dr Ling said.

The three-day conference was held under the auspices of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific to discuss measures to improve and accelerate infrastructure development in Asia.

Several initiatives were launched to jump-start the development. They include the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure (1997-2006) and the Asia Infrastructure Development Alliance (Aida). -- BERNAMA

YBK YBY