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Malaysia-Austria

MALAYSIA AND AUSTRIA TO EXPAND BILATERAL RELATIONS

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 2 (Bernama) -- Malaysia and Austria have agreed to further expand the excellent bilateral relations between the two countries by promoting two-way trade, mutual investment, creation of joint ventures and third market initiatives.

A joint statement issued at the end of the four-day official visit of Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky today said Austria has offered scholarships for post-graduate studies in sustainable rainforest management in the country worth 500,000 Austrian schillings (RM133,500).

Austria also invited Malaysian experts to study the dual system of vocational education in the country, its hydroelectric power generation along rivers and Austrian know-how in the use of mineral springs for therapeutical and preventive medical purposes.

The authorities of both countries will also actively consider the various memoranda on bilateral business projects signed during the visit.

On international issues, the statement said both heads of government have agreed to support the early implementation of the decisions taken at the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) in Bangkok in March this year.

Both countries will consult closely in the preparation of the next ASEM to be held in London in 1998 by taking into account the recommendations by the Asean-EU Eminent Persons Group and the communication of the European Commission to the council on creating a new dynamic relations between the European Union and Asean.

Malaysia and Austria also agreed to work together with other participants of the ASEM process on the establishment of an Asian European Business Council which will comprise especially representatives from small and medium-size enterprises.

Earlier, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad bid farewell to Dr Vranitzky at the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah Airport in Subang.

Dr Mahathir, who flew back from Singapore after attending the 30th Singapore-Malaysia Congress of Medicine, held a short discussion with Dr Vranitzky.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Dr Mahathir said the Austrian Chancellor's visit was useful and successful in enhancing greater cooperation between the two countries.

The Prime Minister said he has agreed to visit Austria in the near future and hoped the two countries would be able to work more closely.

Dr Vranitzky said he and his delegation have had wide ranging and highly fruitful talks while here and would work closely with Malaysia in international forums especially at the 51st United Nations General Assembly in October which is likely to be chaired by the Malaysian representative.

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