

18 JAN 1996

Canada - Bakun

MALAYSIA READY TO CONSIDER CANADA'S INVOLVEMENT IN BAKUN HYDRO PROJECT

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 18 (Bernama) -- Malaysia is ready to consider Canada's participation in the Bakun hydro-electricity project in Sarawak which provides ample room for Canadian investment, a Wisma Putra official said today.

Canada was advanced in the area of power generation and Malaysia would consider its various offers, Foreign Ministry Deputy Secretary-General I Datuk Abdul Halim Ali said.

"Canada can make available its expertise in the laying of high voltage submarine cables for a distance of 960km from Sarawak to Peninsular Malaysia," he said.

Abdul Halim was briefing the press on the talks between visiting Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad here.

Chretien arrived here today for a two-day visit to Malaysia at the invitation of Dr Mahathir to strengthen trade and political links between the two countries.

The RM12 billion Bakun project could generate 2,400 megawatts of electricity.

Canada also expressed the hope that Malaysia would import more Canadian products including transport equipment.

It also wanted to participate in infrastructure projects in Malaysia, Halim said.

Canada had also been invited to have education twinning programmes in this country and set up branch campuses here, he said.

After the meeting, Malaysia and Kanada signed three agreements in the area of education, forestry and air transport.

The agreement on education signed by Deputy Education Minister Datuk Mohd Khalid Yunos and Secretary of State for Asia Pacific Raymond Chan, would among other things enable the exchange of expertise.

Under the forestry agreement, Malaysia could acquire and study Canadian forestry technology and the air services agreement would enable Malaysia Airlines to fly to Vancouver. -- BERNAMA