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Mexico-Cooperation

MEXICO, MALAYSIA STRENGTHEN COOPERATION

KUALA LUMPUR, May 21 (Bernama) -- Mexico and Malaysia will strengthen their bilateral relations with more emphasis on agricultural, technological and economic research.

Mexico's Minister of Agriculture and Water Resources, Francisco Labastida Ochoa said today researchers from his country and Malaysia would work together for their mutual benefit.

"This is a follow-up on an agreement reached between Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de Leon and Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the Apec meeting recently", he told reporters after calling on Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim at his office here today.

Ochoa arrived here earlier today at the head of a 14-member delegation which included businessmen for a three-day visit to Malaysia.

Ochoa was accompanied to Anwar's office by Mexico's Deputy Agriculture and Water Resources Minister Andres Casco, President of Grupo S & TMM (Private Ltd) and Mexican Ambassador to Malaysia Ricardo Villanueva.

Ochoa said there would be more cooperation in research in palm oil, coconut and other agricultural products.

He hoped research institutions from both countries would make joint efforts to produce the best product.

He also said the private sectors in Mexico and Malaysia could set up joint ventures and make investments in each other's country.

Ochoa said Mexico welcomed Malaysian investment and visits from Malaysian businessmen.

He also said Mexico's President was expected to visit Malaysia next year.

Ochoa said his visit here was also part of the programme to prepare for the President's visit.

On his talks with Anwar, he said Mexico was impressed with Anwar's leadership and said the Deputy Prime Minister had deep knowledge of Mexico's history and development. -- BERNAMA

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