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Mahathir-railway

MALAYSIA TO SPEED UP EFFORTS TO COORDINATE STUDIES ON RAILWAY

KUALA LUMPUR, March 3 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today Malaysia will speed up efforts to coordinate studies on the implementation of the railway track that will run across Asia and link it to the trans-European rail track.

He said the inaugural Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) which ended in Bangkok yesterday appointed Malaysia as the coordinator for project studies on the rail link as ASEM did not have a secretariat or special body to implement it.

He disclosed this to reporters on his return from the two-day meeting which was attended by 25 heads of governments from Asia and Europe.

The 10 heads of governments from Asia who attended the meeting comprised of leaders of the seven ASEAN member countries, China, Japan and South Korea.

Dr Mahathir said the task of coordinating the studies would take a long time because there were many aspects that needed to be taken into account such as the type of trains to be used (electric or fuel-engined) and the costs.

"The project does not only cover the stretch from Singapore to China but it also runs across Europe. We must know what are the existing facilities that can be used and what needs to be studied as well as which are the points that need to be linked," he said.

Dr Mahathir also said that he was satisfied with what had been accomplished at the ASEM because several recommendations by Malaysia had been accepted such as the creation of the Asia-Europe University programme.

He said the ASEM had focused on development as well as economic and social cooperation which would benefit both regions.

Also present was Acting Foreign Minister, Datuk Haji Abu Hassan Omar.
-- BERNAMA.

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