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Vietnam

MALAYSIA-VIETNAM RELATIONS GROWING

By: Mohd Ghazemy Mahmud

HANOI, Aug 31 (Bernama) -- Malaysia's growing bilateral relations with socialist Vietnam extends beyond economic boundaries, Ambassador Cheah Sam Kip said today.

"Malaysia-Vietnam relations have grown from strength to strength over the years and this lies not only in Malaysia's economic presence but also in other areas of cooperation," he said in his remarks at the 39th national day reception here.

He said the first ever state visit by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Ja'afar last December and the working visit by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in March this year had further cemented ties.

These visits and the ensuing visits by other Malaysian ministers and political leaders to Vietnam had opened a new dimension for cooperation between the two countries, he added.

The 100-odd members of the Malaysian community and their family members here celebrated "Merdeka" at the Military Guest House here amidst the usual fanfare and Malaysian food.

The function was also attended by members of the diplomatic community and senior Vietnamese officials.

Cheah said the increased cooperation and interaction would benefit both countries tremendously.

To further strengthen people to people interaction, he said, Malaysia had supported Vietnam's proposal for partial bilateral visa abolition.

He said: "We hope Vietnam will be able to participate soon in the total visa exemption that now exists among ASEAN countries."

Malaysia is currently the seventh largest investor in Vietnam which officially joined ASEAN in July last year.

A total of 13 bilateral agreements had been signed between the two countries. -- BERNAMA

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