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Uruguay-Ties

URUGUAY SEES DEEPER COOPERATION WITH MALAYSIA

KUALA LUMPUR, July 5 (Bernama) -- Visiting Uruguayan President Dr Julio Maria Sanguinetti leaves for home tomorrow highly optimistic of the further surge in bilateral trade and economic ties.

He said the prospects were great given Malaysia's commitment towards widening contacts with Latin American countries.

"We have move forward in our relationship...we are in the beginning of more agreements and contacts in the future," he told a farewell press conference at Carcosa Sri Negara, here.

He arrived here on Tuesday as the first Uruguayan President to visit Malaysia since diplomatic relations were established in 1984.

Sanguinetti said while Malaysia served as a gateway for Uruguay for Asean, his country could be the gateway for Malaysian products to penetrate Mercosur countries. Malaysia's trade with South American countries had grown by 300 per cent since 1991.

He was happy to note that the accompanying Uruguayan businessmen had established contacts with their Malaysian counterparts, paving the way for possible ventures.

Malaysian Ambassador to Uruguay Datuk Marzuki Mohammad Noor said bilateral relations would be enhanced with the President's visit as a reciprocal to the visits by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Jaafar and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to Montevideo last year.

"It has opened the way for Malaysian entrepreneurs and exporters to explore the new market," he told Bernama after the press conference by Sanguinetti.

Although there was no direct flight between Kuala Lumpur and Montevideo, Malaysia Airlines (MAS) flies twice weekly to Buenos Aires, the Argentine capital.

"It takes 25 minutes to fly from Buenos Aires to Montevideo," said Marzuki who is based in Argentina. -- BERNAMA

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