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Abdullah: Ties with Brunei strong

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - The visit of the Sultan of Brunei Sultan Hassanah Bolkiah to Malaysia signifies that the ties between the two countries are strong, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today.

From the discussions between leaders of the two countries, he said, it was clear there was good understanding and solidarity between them.

He was briefing reporters after attending a meeting between Brunei and Malaysian delegations, led by the Sultan of Brunei and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"Both leaders agreed that any problem arising can be discussed at ministerial or official levels and they also agreed that the meeting that took place here should be made an annual affair on a rotational basis as both felt there is much advantage to be gained," Abdullah said.

He said it was further agreed that the joint commission of the two countries be maintained to facilitate technical or detailed discussions while "macro policies" could be decided during the annual meeting of leaders.

"The Prime Minister also took the opportunity today to explain the current 'currency manipulation' problem and its adverse effects on some countries in the region," Abdullah said.

He added Dr Mahathir said he would continue to put forward his views on the matter and asked for support from other countries, especially Asean member countries which felt the effects of the currency manipulation attacks.

"The Sultan of Brunei agreed with the Prime Minister's views on the matter," he said.

Abdullah said Dr Mahathir also mentioned that it was important for Malaysia and Brunei to understand the problem and exchange information on the issue, and begin to think how the two countries could act together.

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