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Abdullah - China

CHINA INVITED TO ASEAN INFORMAL SUMMIT

KUALA LUMPUR, May 16 (Bernama) -- China has been invited for the first time to attend the Asean Informal Summit to be held in Kuala Lumpur from Dec 14 to 16.

Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi extended the invitation when he called on President Jiang Zemin in Beijing today.

Abdullah said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad would extend the official invitation and hoped the Chinese leader would attend the summit.

Japan and Korea were also invited to attend the meeting of Asean leaders, said Abdullah in a statement issued by by Wisma Putra here.

During the meeting, President Jiang said China welcomed positive role by Asean in the region and at international level.

Abdullah and President Jian also discussed China's roles in particular the theory of China becoming a threat.

President Jiang who felt that China would remain a developing country for quite sometime agreed with Abdullah that China needed regional peace for successful modernisation of its economy.

The Chinese leader also assured Abdullah that China had no intention to be in confrontation with any nations even after successful modernisation of its economy.

President Jiang also said China appreciated the good ties with Malaysia and welcomed Yang di-Pertuan Agong's visit to the country in July. --

BERNAMA

RHM ABG