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Hungary-Reconstruction

CONCRETE PROGRAMMES NEEDED TO REBUILD BALKAN STATES

KUALA LUMPUR, April 22 (Bernama) -- Hungarian Prime Minister Gyula Horn said today that concrete offers have to be made towards the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the former Yugoslav republics.

"The biggest problem for the reconstruction and restoration of normal economic life there is that there have been no appropriate and necessary programmes and projects," he told a news conference at the end of his two-day official visit to Malaysia.

Horn said he discussed the issue with his Malaysian counterpart Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad last night.

Elaborating on the matter, Hungarian Industry, Trade and Tourism Minister Szabolcs Fazakas said in his discussion with International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz, it was agreed that Hungary could act as a bridgehead in efforts to rebuild Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"We agreed that Hungary can act as a bridgehead because of practical, geographical reasons and our knowledge of Malaysian partners," he said, adding that the respective embassies would directly inform each other on project and cooperation opportunities.

Horn stressed that opportunities for Malaysia-Hungary joint ventures were wide from the Trans-Asia railway project to the reconstruction of the former Yugoslavia.

He said Hungary would like Malaysian companies to participate in the development of Hungarian infrastructure, tourism and industrial park projects

Due to the low level of trade ties and Malaysia's investment in Hungary, Horn said the establishment of a Malaysian trade office for export promotion had been initiated.

The Hungarian premier also said links in various fields such as sports, education and culture should be expanded.

Horn expected a more active Malaysian participation in English language training courses in Hungary and that some sort of an agreement be reached on the mutual recognition of university diplomas and degrees.

He said direct air links between Budapest and Kuala Lumpur should also be established. -- BERNAMA

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