

12/09/1997

(Dr Mahathir said this ... )

Fauziah Ismail in Bishkek

BISHKEK: Dr Mahathir said this evening that Malaysia believes that it can work with other countries and institutions to contribute in a meaningful way towards establishing a full fledged free market economy in Kyrgyzstan.

He said that since his visit here a year ago, there have been remarkable changes in the republic. "These changes are a clear signal that the republic is well on the way to achieving a transformation to a free market economy.

"We admire the courage with which steps are being taken to globalise the Kyrgyzstan economy," he said at an official dinner hosted by President Askar Akayev. Dr Mahathir arrived here this evening for a three-day working visit.

During his stay here Dr Mahathir will hold a delegation meeting with Akayev and present an economic report which was drawn up by the Malaysian Government for Kyrgyzstan. The report is said to be the first to be undertaken by the Malaysian Government for another country.

Dr Mahathir and Akayev will witness the signing of a complementary agreement on economic cooperation between the Economic Planning Unit and Kyrgyzstan's Ministry of Finance and an agreement between MEC Sales and Services Sdn Bhd and Aziz Ltd for the distribution of MEC products in the republic.

They will also witness the handing over of Ak-Keme Hotel shares between Business Focus Sdn Bhd and Ak-Keme Joint Stock Co.

(END)