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Netherlands-Mahathir

DUTCH PREMIER LAUDS M'SIA'S PROSPER-THY-NEIGHBOUR POLICY

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 10 (Bernama) -- Netherlands Prime Minister Wim Kok said the "prosper-thy-neighbour" policy expounded by his Malaysian counterpart Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has boosted trade and investment between Asia and Europe.

He said the prosperity and open regionalism concept mooted by Dr Mahathir had seen substantial investment in Europe and likewise in Asian countries.

"We are today seeing substantial Asian development in Europe helping to bring new light into the European economy and create new jobs.

"Likewise European countries invest in Asia and share their technologies and are doing their bit to bring prosperity into Asia," he said in a video teleconferencing message to the 1997 Kuala Lumpur Global Panel conference.

The two-day meeting is jointly organised by the Institute for Strategic and International Studies (Isis), the European Research Centre and the Asian Strategy and Leadership Institute (Asli).

Dr Mahathir is scheduled to speak on "Asia and Europe; Forging a Partnership for the 21st century" at the conference later today.

Wim Kok said Europe and Asia prospered not only due to free trade but also to the strong communication link and the mutual confidence.

There was now a new comprehensive partnership between the two regions based on prosperity and mutual respect, he said.

Wim Kok said Asia and Europe have great potential and there was a need to cooperate in matters of mutual interest in international fora.

Meanwhile, president of the Washington-based Centre for Democracy Prof Allen Weinstein in his speech earlier said negative reports on Southeast Asia's economic crises had not contributed at all to resolving them. --

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