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France-Malaysia ties will profit both nations, says envoy

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - France's newly-appointed special envoy to Malaysia Jean-Claude Paye today expressed confidence that the partnership between the two countries would be a profitable venture for both.

He said similarities in various important aspects in the two countries complemented efforts by France and Malaysia to forge a long-term relationship in all fields of co-operation.

"We will not only focus on specific projects but the overall development of both countries, including political-related matters," he said at a Press conference held at the French ambassador Edouard Braine's residence today.

Malaysia's special envoy to France, Tan Sri Kamil Jaafar, was not present as he had to leave for Europe earlier on another assignment.

Paye said besides the joint action on matters such as the political matters affecting both countries as well as the world, efforts would also be concentrated in the fields of education, training and transfer of technology.

"My role will be like a catalyst and booster to foster greater relationship between France and Malaysia in time to come. It must be clear that I am not acting as a substitute to the existing channels," he said.

"With the vast development taking place particularly in Malaysia, it is only natural for France to pay greater attention and make the best out of its partnership with Malaysia," he said.

He also said that the proposed setting up of the Commonwealth University in Malaysia, as envisaged by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his counterpart President Jacques Chirac during the former's official visit to France about two months ago, was one of the few steps taken to enhance the level of technology among the people in this country, in view of its goal to achieve industrialised nation status by the year 2020.

Also present was Kamil's special assistant Mohd Zulkifli Mohd Noor.

(END)