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Germany admires our vibrant, continuous growth

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GERMANY holds great admiration for Malaysia's vibrant and continuous growth and is confident it will be the next "Asian Tiger".

Visiting German Vice-Chancellor and Foreign Minister Dr Klaus Kinkel said the Malaysian economy is, in a true sense, a booming economy in view of its continuous growth.

"German holds great admiration for what the current administration has achieved for the country, particularly in ensuring that Malaysia has a steady annual growth of 8 per cent," he added.

Kinkel spoke to reporters after a 30-minute meeting with Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

He had earlier met with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Kinkel thanked the Malaysian leaders for their "friendly greetings". Describing the discussions he had had as "excellent", Kinkel said he is impressed with what the Government has done for the country.

"With a steady growth of some 8 per cent a year, it shows that the Government has a strong commitment to develop the country," he added.

Kinkel said the Malaysian Government also shows great commitment to regional groupings, including Association of South-East Asian Nations, Asean-Europe meeting and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation.

In the world arena, he said Malaysia has stamped its mark too and this is amply manifested in the Bosnia-Herzegovina conflict, where it placed some 1,500 of its troops in the Balkan state.

"Although the peace-finding solution in Bosnia is more of an European project, Malaysia participated actively," he added.

Kinkel arrived in Kuala Lumpur yesterday with a 39-strong trade delegation to promote greater trade activities between Malaysia and Germany. His visit ends today.

Germany ranks fifth on the list of Malaysia's trading partners. Malaysia is 29th on the list of German sources of imports and 40th in exports.

Its exports to Malaysia include electronics, machinery and chemical products, while it imports from Malaysia electronics products, foodstuff, garments and precision tools.

There are some 200 German companies in Malaysia.

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