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Malaysian, Iranian businessmen to hold talks on distribution park

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TRANSPORT Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik will chair a meeting on Monday between Iranian and Malaysian business communities on the setting up of a free commercial zone distripark at the Port of Abbas in Iran.

The meeting will be attended by a seven-member Iranian delegation led by its Deputy Road and Transport Planning and Economic Affairs Minister M.E. Ghaimmaghami and representatives from the Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers (FMM) and Chambers of Commerce.

Dr Ling said the meeting will enable the two sides to interact.

"Since they are here, we want them to know how our ports work, so that they will have a better understanding and idea of what we will need over there in terms of the kind of facilities and land area.

"We also want our businessmen to know how the Iranians work and operate over there because each country will have slightly different rules and regulations," he told reporters in Kuala Lumpur yesterday after attending the TAR College convocation ceremony.

Iran has agreed to allow Malaysia to set up a distribution park at Port Abbas to boost economic co-operation between the two countries. The park is seen as a possible gateway for Malaysian goods to be exported to Iran and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

"This will increase the volume of trade between this region and that region," Ling said.

The seven-member Iranian delegation also visited the Port Kang Distribution Park in Port Klang two days ago to study Port Klang's organisation and operations.

Dr Ling added a memorandum of understanding will be signed on Tuesday before the Iranian delegation leaves for home.

Meanwhile, he said the successor to outgoing Klang Port Authority (KPA) general manager Datuk M. Rajasingam will not be named for another 10 days or so.

"I do not want to announce the name of the person yet although I have already cleared the name with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad," he said.

There are still some technical details such as the promotions board.

"Let it go through the promotions board first and then I'll let you know the successor in another week or 10 days," he said.

Rajasingam, who joined KPA in 1965 as a cadet officer, retires in November. He started his leave prior to the retirement yesterday.

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