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Sri Lanka-cooperation

MALAYSIA AGREES TO TRAIN SRI LANKAN OFFICERS

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 16 (Bernama) -- Sri Lanka has sought Malaysia's cooperation to train its officers in line with its move to reform its Civil Service.

The request was one of the matters raised in the discussion between Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the Prime Minister's Department here today.

Briefing the press on the meeting, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Haji Ahmad Badawi said Colombo was interested in learning from Malaysia which had successfully implemented reformation of its Civil Service.

"They hoped that the Malaysia government could accept their officers sent to Malaysia for specific training or on study tour," he said.

He said Dr Mahathir told President Kumaratunga that Malaysia was prepared to provide training needed by the Sri Lankan government.

President Kumaratunga arrived yesterday for a four-day official visit on the invitation of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Ja'afar in efforts to enhance bilateral ties as well as expanding economic cooperation.

Abdullah said both leaders agreed to enhance further bilateral ties including expanding cooperation in the fields of economy, investment, training and information technology.

They also touched on several international issues including promoting closer ties between Asean of which Malaysia is a member and South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) of which Sri Lanka is also member.

Dr Mahathir, who will attend the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Edinburgh, Scotland, told the Sri Lankan President that one of the issues he would raise at the meeting would be on the share and financial market.

"The Prime Minister explained how manipulation of currency had caused hardships to developing countries...he also related Malaysia's experience," said Abdullah.

He said the Sri Lankan President also gave her view on the matter.

Abdullah said President Kumaratunga also told Dr Mahathir that Sri Lanka would propose that Malaysia be included in the Group of 24 (G24) since there was a vacancy.

President Kumaratunga also said Sri Lanka was interested in joining the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC).

On this, Dr Mahathir told Sri Lankan President that there was no decision to expand the membership at this time but when the time came Malaysia would give its support to Colombo.

On human right issues, Dr Mahathir explained Malaysia's view and Sri Lankan President agreed there was ground to review to the the declaration on human rights made by the United Nations.

"This means that there is support from Sri Lanka in the matter," he said. --BERNAMA

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