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Mahathir-Slovenia

MALAYSIA AND SLOVENIA SIGN AIR TREATY

By: Zainoor Sulaiman

LJUBLJANA, Oct 28 (Bernama) -- Malaysia and Slovenia today signed an air traffic agreement to step up economic and cultural ties between the two countries.

The agreement was signed by Malaysia's Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik and Slovenia's Transport and Telecommunications Minister Anton Bergaeur.

The ceremony at the Grand Hall of the Presidential Palace here was witnessed by the Prime Ministers of the two countries, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Dr Janez Drnovsek.

The agreement allows Malaysia Airlines (MAS) and Slovenia Adria Airways to operate between Kuala Lumpur and Ljubljana.

MAS already has services to cities in neighbouring countries of Slovenia like Zagreb (Croatia), Vienna (Austria) and Rome (Italy).

Dr Mahathir, leading a 45-member delegation that includes businessmen, arrived here from Edinburgh last night to begin a three-day official visit to the Adriatic nation.

He was met at Brnik airport, 15km from here, by Dr Drnovsek and after a ceremonial welcome was taken to Brado Castle, where he and his wife will reside during the visit.

Dr Mahathir had a meeting with Dr Drnovsek at the Governmental Palace before heading the Malaysian side at delegation-level talks.

The Malaysian delegation included Dr Ling, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, National Unity and Social Development Minister Datin Paduka Zaleha Ismail, Pahang Menteri Besar Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob, Deputy Works Minister Datuk Railey Jeffrey and Deputy Minister of Science, Technology and Environment Datuk Abu Bakar Daud.

Dr Mahathir also called on Slovenia's President Milan Kucan at the Presidential Palace.

He is scheduled to address a Malaysia-Slovenia business conference at the World Trade Centre here that will be attended by businessmen from both countries.

Dr Mahathir will also be visiting Koper port and a stud farm and equestrian programme.

Slovenia, an Adriatic Sea coastal nation, shares borders with Croatia, Austria, Hungary and Italy.

Dr Mahathir, accompanied by his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah, and other members of the delegation will attend an official reception hosted by President Kucan and his wife at the Presidential Palace tonight. -- BERNAMA

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