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Hamid-Myanmar

MALAYSIA HAS NOT DECIDED ON HOLDING JOINT MILITARY EXERCISE WITH MYANMAR

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 8 (Bernama) -- Malaysia is unable to determine at this point when it will hold joint military exercise with Myanmar, Defence Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said today.

Such exercises were normal among Asean countries however as Myanmar had just joined the grouping it had not been decided when to hold the joint war games, he said.

"Let everyone feel comfortable first, it has joined Asean and time and opportunity should be given....," he said when asked whether any timeframe had been set for such joint military exercise.

He was speaking to reporters after launching the "Islamic Excellence Week" organised by Universiti Malaya here.

"Myanmar has sent over a military officer here under the officers exchange programme and we'll see how this can be developed further," he said.

Myanmar had high regards for Malaysia and the highest esteem for Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, said Hamid who made a two-day visit to that country recently.

He also said Myanmar had been invited to take part in the Langkawi International and Maritime Exhibition (Lima) from Dec 2 to 7.

Syed Hamid said he was very impressed with Myanmar's military training programme at the end of which a degree was awarded.

The training stressed on discipline and patriotism apart from military and academic skills.

On the Islamic Excellence Week, Syed Hamid said it would help create religious awareness among Muslims and persuade them to uphold its teachings so that they would be respected by peoples of other religions. -- BERNAMA

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