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Mahathir-Students

MALAYSIANS MAY BE SENT TO STUDY IN HUNGARY

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BUDAPEST, June 25 (Bernama) -- Already having the largest number of students in foreign universities, Malaysians may next be sent to study in Hungary, one of the world's great centres of science and engineering.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is on a two-month overseas leave, indicated this when addressing over 400 Hungarian businessmen at Parliament House here Tuesday before ending a two-day working visit here.

He said Malaysia could draw on the skills of Hungarian scientists and engineers to solve its shortage of knowledge workers.

"Malaysian students could also be sent here to continue their higher level education in specialised fields," he said.

Hungary, among other things, boasts of having 12 Nobel Prize winners mainly in science and medicine.

Introducing Dr Mahathir to the Hungarian businessmen at the gathering, Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism Szabolcs Fazaks said that the speed of Malaysia's response to recent agreements for cooperation between the two countries was "a world record".

Hungarian Prime Minister Gyula Horn visited Malaysia in April this year, followed by a visit by Malaysia's Yang di-Pertuan Agong here last month.

Speaking to Malaysian journalists accompanying him later, Dr Mahathir said that his visit here with a delegation of Malaysian businessmen was in response to an invitation by Horn and also because he wanted to see for himself the progress made by Hungary since his first official visit here in 1987.

Dr Mahathir said that during his earlier visit when Hungary was still under socialist rule, there was hardly any business activity here and very few cars were on the road.

"Now Budapest looks like any other large European city. There are sidewalk cafes here now and there are many cars. It is clear that the population here are happier and have progressed," he said.

He said there were many economic, investment and trading opportunities for Malaysians in Hungary.

Other areas where Malaysians would be able to participate in Hungary's economic development are in privatisation, tourism and transportation, including air transportation.

Before departing for London, Dr Mahathir visited the Ikarus vehicle factory and an electronics assembly plant outside Budapest.

The Hungarian businessmen also watched a presentation by Malaysia's Multimedia Development Corporation (MDC) on the Multimedia Super Corridor.

The MSC is a 750 sq km area south of Kuala Lumpur designated as a hub for multimedia and information technology services and products. -- BERNAMA

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