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MoU to enhance trade with Greece

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - Malaysia and Greece will sign a Memorandum of Understanding to enhance trade and investments and to substantially increase trade volume from the current amount of RM170 million.

"We believe that there is vast potential for us to co-operate for mutual benefits," Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi told reporters after meeting Greek Foreign Minister Theodoros Pangalos at Wisma Putra.

Abdullah said his Greek counterpart informed him that there was a vast potential in promoting Greece as a tourist destination because of its rich history.

Greece is prepared to allow Malaysians to visit the country for 30 days without visas. The two countries would also explore possibilities of promoting Greece and Malaysia as tourist destinations.

"We agreed that the private sectors of both countries should co-operate to promote trade and tourism," he said.

"But they must be made aware of the various opportunities available in both countries."

Senior officials of both countries would also discuss the possibility of technical and scientific co-operation, he said.

Pangalos, he said, also extended an invitation to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to visit Greece because he felt that the visit would boost bilateral ties.

"We also discussed the proposal by several countries that the composition of the United Nations Security Council be expanded to include Japan and Germany," he said.

Abdullah said Malaysia and other countries in the Organisation of Islamic Conference had opposed the move by Israel to move its capital of Tel Aviv to Jerusalem which is the site of Islam's holiest mosques.

"We hope the United States would also not shift its embassy from Tel Aviv," he said.

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