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Offer to train Kyrgyz officials in six sectors

Fauziah Ismail in Bishkek

BISHKEK, Fri: As a developing country, Malaysia's resources to help fellow developing countries such as the Kyrgyz Republic are limited.

The only effective manner in which it can contribute is through training and sharing of experience, including provision of hands-on training, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

Speaking at the handing over of the Malaysia-Kyrgyz Republic joint economic study report to President Askar Akayev at Government House here, Dr Mahathir identified six sectors in which Malaysia can effectively offer training.

These are: banking, financial sector and the fiscal system; legal and constitutional affairs; trade and industry; energy sector; agriculture; and transport.

Dr Mahathir said Kyrgyz officials can be trained on the tax and fiscal system with Malaysia's Inland Revenue Board, Royal Customs and Excise Department and Bank Negara. The training and skills upgrading of Kyrgyz senior central bank officials will include monetary fiscal policies, commercial bank operations, risk assessment and management, and promotion of investments.

"Banking is a critical sector, for a sound financial sector goes a long way towards building investor confidence," Dr Mahathir said.

Malaysia, he said, can also assist in the setting up of a Malaysian Industrial Development Authority-type organisation and the setting up of an agency to oversee the management of a free trade zone.

Kyrgyz officials can be attached to Mida to learn about the formulation of industrial policies and the promotion and management of investment.

Malaysia can also expose Kyrgyz Republic judges and legal officials to various aspects of commercial law, legislative drafting, legal education and legal aid education.

A total of 15 Kyrgyz government officials have already undergone training under the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme.

These training courses and study visits began in 1992 and are continuing with several Malaysian agencies such as the Economic Planning Unit (EPU) in the Prime Minister's Department, the National Institute of Public Administration, National Library, Cooperative College of Malaysia, Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations, Institute of Medical Research, National Archives and the Tun Razak Broadcasting Centre.

Later, Dr Mahathir and Akayev witnessed the signing of the complementary agreement on economic cooperation between the Malaysia's EPU and the Kyrgyz Ministry of Finance.

EPU director-general Tan Sri Ali Abul Hassan Sulaiman and Kyrgyz Finance Minister Toalaybek Koychumanov signed the document.

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