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Haze-Thailand

THAILAND WILLING TO PUT OUT HAZE-CAUSING FIRES, SAYS ANWAR

By: Mohd Fisol Jaafar

BANGKOK, 19 Sept (Bernama) -- Thailand has offered to make available its aircraft to transport water to help put out haze-causing forest fires in Indonesia, Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said here today.

Anwar said the offer, made by Thai Prime Minister Chavalit Yongchaiyudh when they met this morning, was in the spirit of Asean cooperation.

Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia have been badly hit by haze which has been attributed to forest fires in Kalimantan and Sumatera.

The situation in Sarawak has become so bad that a state of haze emergency was declared for the state today.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who made the declaration, also said that help would be sought from other countries to help overcome the haze.

Anwar, who is also the finance minister, called on Chavalit just before the the first Asian-Europe Finance Ministers' Meeting began here.

He told Malaysian journalists here that he discussed the haze problem unofficially with the finance ministers of Japan, Thailand, Indonesia and Singapore and they all offered their cooperation in overcoming the haze. --

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