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CHIRAC CONFIDENT M'SIA SHALL PREVAIL OVER ECONOMIC WOES

KUALA LUMPUR, May 13 (Bernama) -- French President Jacques Chirac said he is confident that Southeast Asian countries, especially Malaysia, will overcome the current economic crisis soon.

He also expressed deep admiration for Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and supported his efforts to bring Malaysia out of the current economic problems.

Chirac said this when receiving the new Malaysian ambassador to France Dr Rajmah Hussain, who earlier presented her credentials to the president at Elysee Palace yesterday.

A statement from the Malaysian Embassy in Paris said during her conversation with Chirac, Dr Rajmah reaffirmed Malaysia's commitment towards strengthening and deepening of ties with France.

Chirac reciprocated the warm sentiments and expressed similar desire to further build upon the relationship between the two countries, said the statement sent to Bernama by facsimile.

Dr Rajmah 47, succeeds Mohamad Haron who is retiring.

Prior to this she was Malaysia's Deputy Chief of Mission in Washington for four years.

-- BERNAMA

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