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Croatia has a lot to offer, says ambassador

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CROATIA has a lot to offer Malaysian investors in terms of infrastructure and skilled labour, said its ambassador Damir Perincic yesterday.

As such, the country would be used to sell products to the Eastern European market while Croatian businessmen could tap into opportunities in Asean through Malaysia.

Perincic said this after an audience with the Sultan of Terengganu and a meeting with Menteri Besar Tan Sri Wan Mokhtar Ahmad in Kuala Terengganu.

He said Croatia had changed its system to a liberal and open market economy with an active privatisation policy since 1991.

"In addition, direct flights from Kuala Lumpur to Zagreb can also pave the way for smoother transactions between investors and visitors of both countries, besides providing a convenient link for Croatians abroad."

It was reported that the volume of trade between the two countries, which established diplomatic ties only a few years ago, had improved since Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's visit to Croatia.

The volume of trade increased from US\$5.12 million (RM19.9 million) in 1994 to US\$6.31 million in 1995 and US\$10 million last year, with the trade balance in favour of Malaysia.

Meanwhile, Wan Mokhtar said there was a possibility for Terengganu and Croatia to jointly develop the State's tourism sector since both places share several similarities such as beautiful sandy beaches.

"We may arrange a meeting between the tourist agencies in both countries," he added.

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