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INDONESIA WILL STRENGTHEN RELATIONS WITH MALAYSIA- HABIBIE

By: Abdul Rahman Ahmad

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 17 (Bernama) -- Indonesia's President BJ Habibie has assured Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad that his country will continue to strengthen bilateral relations with Malaysia.

Briefing the press on the bilateral meeting between Dr Mahathir and Habibie here today, Malaysian Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said Habibie viewed the bilateral relationship as very important and that it should be put on a stronger footing.

Abdullah said Dr Mahathir welcomed the Indonesian President's initiative and felt that cooperation should cover the economic field and there should also be sharing of experience in their respective methods of handling the economic slowdown and the financial crisis.

Habibie who flew in this morning for the Apec summit will return to Jakarta tonight after attending a dinner hosted by Dr Mahathir for Apec leaders at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel here.

He will return to Kuala Lumpur tomorrow morning for the Apec leaders retreat at the Cyberview Lodge at Cyberjaya about 45KM south of here. It is a two-hour flight from KL to Jakarta.

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