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Iran-Malaysia

IRAN HOPES FOR MORE TRADE WITH MALAYSIA

KUALA LUMPUR, July 15 (Bernama) -- The volume of trade between Iran and Malaysia can be increased as both countries have the capacity and potential to do so, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia-Pacific Mohsen Aminzadeh said today.

He said both sides should explore other avenues for cooperation apart from in oil and gas production.

"The volume of trade is not very high but in view of the capacity and potential of both sides, I believe that it can move to a higher level," he told reporters.

Mohsen, who arrived here yesterday, has met Prime Minister Datuk Seri Mahathir Mohamad and Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

He said Iran was aware of the economic problems faced by several Asian countries including Malaysia but believed that Malaysia would still be able to participate in the development of Iran.

Mohsen said other possible areas for cooperation between the two countries were manufacturing, power plant construction, telecommunications, electronics and computers as well as tourism.

"Iran would like to have more investments in the construction of refinery and petrochemical plants," he added.

The deputy minister said Iran had also embarked on a programme to establish free trade zones which could be further developed with the participation of Malaysian partners.

On his meeting with Dr Mahathir, Mohsen said he conveyed a message from President Mohammad Khatami to the prime minister.

He declined to elaborate on the content of the message apart from saying that it addressed matters such as bilateral cooperation and issues of mutual interest.

On Iran-United States relations, he hoped that some openings would be made in the "high wall of mistrust" which existed between the two countries.

-- BERNAMA

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