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Jiang backs our measures to tackle economic, financial woes

CHINESE President Jiang Zemin reiterated his support for measures implemented by Malaysia following the economic and financial problems in the region.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said the visiting Chinese leader disclosed this during bilateral talks between Malaysia and China.

Abdullah said Jiang responded positively to the measures implemented by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad as it was showing positive effects on the Malaysian economy.

Abdullah also said Jiang and Dr Mahathir agreed that a wider forum should be considered in seeking a consensus solution to the current economic and financial problems.

He said the possibility of seeking views from the Group of 22 was discussed.

The Group of 22 comprised the developed countries of the Group of Seven and developing nations of the Group of 15.

Emphasising there was no shift of responsibility, Abdullah explained that Apec had a role to play and the move was merely to seek the views of a broader grouping.

"There is no question of legitimacy but broader participation," he added.

He said both Apec and non-Apec members should collectively be advised on the importance of drawing up the blueprint for a stable international financial system.

Abdullah said both leaders also agreed that "hot money", used for speculative purposes, should also be controlled.

"In doing so, all countries must understand the issues at hand and work together in reaching a consensus for the international financial system."

Both leaders also exchanged views on the affects of the economic and financial problems on the respective countries.

"Steps initiated to tackle the problems were also discussed."

Abdullah said both leaders agreed the problem should be addressed to ensure that it did not reach the shores of developed economies.

On the role of the Group of 22, he said it would be inappropriate to comment further.

However, he added that leaders of Apec economies had mentioned the issue during their bilateral meetings with Dr Mahathir.

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