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Mahathir-Olsen

SOUTH AUSTRALIA KEEN TO EXPAND EDUCATIONAL LINK WITH MALAYSIA

KUALA LUMPUR, April 20 (Bernama) -- South Australia is ready to expand educational cooperation with Malaysia through the setting up of more branch campuses of universities in the state, here.

The state's premier, John Olsen, expressed this to Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad during their 30-minute meeting at the Prime Minister's Office here today.

Olsen said with the currency movement internationally, Australia has become a very competitive location for higher education compared to the United States and Europe.

"We simply want to indicate a willingness to work cooperatively in expanding those educational opportunities," he told reporters after the meeting.

Olsen, accompanied by a 30-member delegation, arrived here yesterday for a four-day mission to explore long-term relationship with Malaysian businessmen in areas such as education and health.

He said a number of universities from Australia including South Australia have established their branch campuses in Malaysia.

He said three universities in South Australia -- Flinders, Adelaide and University of South Australia -- have recently put together a package to attract potential students from Malaysia.

Olsen said several branch campuses of South Australian universities in Malaysia were offering courses which could be done partly here and the remaining in Australia.

On his discussion with Dr Mahathir, Olsen said it was very fruitful where they discussed several key issues including the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC).

Discribing the MSC as a vissionary project, he said it will lay the economic foundation for Malaysia in the next millenium.

Olsen also said he discussed with the Prime Minister the joint venture between South Australian and Malaysian companies in the automotive industry.

He said the joint venture involves research and development between the companies.

Olsen earlier met International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz.

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