

27/05/1999

Ahmad Kamil presented with coveted French award

Marina Tan

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - Both Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and President Jacques Chirac of France are committed to putting into place a global financial mechanism that will prevent the recurrence of the economic turmoil that swept East Asia, Tan Sri Ahmad Kamil Jaafar said today.

Ahmad Kamil who is Special Envoy of the Prime Minister said this when accepting the Government of France's Legion d'Honneur (Legion of Honour) award.

He said France-Malaysia relations would not have progressed without the vision and commitment of Chirac and Dr Mahathir.

"Both saw the dangers of unbridled currency trading and manipulative hands of a few that had a crippling effect on the many.

"Both recognise the urgent need and are therefore committed to put into place a mechanism that will prevent the recurrence of the economic turmoil that countries in East Asia had gone through."

He said it was the vision of the two leaders to establish a global architecture which could learn from the lessons of this century and withstand the pressures of the next millennium.

To this end, Ahmad Kamil said, it was important that this vision continued to be shared by the Malaysian and French peoples.

"We want to build a world where all nations are equal, that no one nation is made a crony of another, that no one nation must arrogate to itself the right to administer what in its eyes is justice, and inflict devastating punishment on others," he said.

French Ambassador to Malaysia Xavier Driencourt presented the medal to Ahmad Kamil at a ceremony here. Ahmad Kamil was made Commandeur (Commander), the highest of three ranks within the order.

The order of Legion d'Honneur was created by Napoleon Bonaparte on May 19, 1802 after the French revolution, to replace the traditional social order and compensate civilian and military services in France in times of war and peace.

Driencourt said the decoration was awarded to Ahmad Kamil to underline his distinguished and productive career as a civil servant.

Ahmad Kamil joined the Foreign Ministry in 1961 as an assistant secretary and served in Malaysian embassies in Germany and Singapore, and later served as ambassador to Vietnam, Switzerland, China and Japan.

He served as Secretary-General of the ministry from 1989 until his retirement in 1996, upon which he was appointed as Special Envoy of the Prime Minister.

He was a special envoy for relations between France and Malaysia, and initiated with his French counterpart, Jean Claude Paye, some ambitious projects.

(END)