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BRITISH-AIRLINE

BRITISH AIRWAYS CHAIRMAN HOPES TO SEE DAILY FLIGHTS BETWEEN KL AND LONDON

KUALA LUMPUR, June 8 (Bernama) -- British Airways chairman Lord Marshall hoped that the new round of talks on air service agreement between Malaysia and Britain would lead to daily flights by the airline on the highly lucrative Kuala Lumpur-London route.

The discussions between the two countries are scheduled for late next month, said Lord Marshall of Knightsbridge, Colin Marsh Marshall.

"My hope is that over time, and I don't know how long that will be, we (British Airways) will be able to move to a daily service routine between Kuala Lumpur and London and increase the frequency to Sidney from Kuala Lumpur," said Marshall at a press conference in conjunction with his visit to Malaysia.

As a representative of British Airways, he said the issue of his visit includes seeing the possibility of expanding the frequency of services and therefore, the number of seats and capacity that are available for passengers and cargo.

Marshall added that British Airways has five flights per week between Kuala Lumpur and London, adding that three of them go on to Sidney and two to Jakarta.

Most of these flights now are full or almost full, he said.

He also said airlines that are based in the region and those that fly in and out of the region had been adversely affected by the economic situation over the past two years, but there are now signs of a turnaround in the region.

He is optimistic that the turnaround will continue and this will be translated into more traffic.

Marshall was also impressed with the progress being achieved by Malaysia, especially on the economic front where there is a remarkable turnaround in the performance of the economy.

Malaysia and Britain, he noted, have extremely strong relationships in terms of investments and trade.

In the latter, British companies had invested 1.1 billion pound sterling in Malaysia and were the number one foreign investors last year, he added.

"That shows the level of confidence that British companies have in Malaysia and its future," he said, adding that the continuing privatisation in Malaysia offers considerable interests to British companies looking for investment opportunities.

Marshall and several prominent British company representatives are in Malaysia from June 7 to 9 to acquire a comprehensive understanding of the many commercial and investment opportunities currently available here.

As part of the visit, Marshall will meet Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed.

Marshall said his discussion with Mahathir will focus on the overall situation in terms of the current relationship between Malaysia and Britain and the misconceptions in some parts of the world of what had happened in Malaysia and the capital controls that were imposed. -- BERNAMA

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