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Iran-relationship

IRANIAN ENVOY UPBEAT WITH BILATERAL TIES

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 11 (Bernama) -- Upbeat with the current level of bilateral relations, Iranian ambassador to Malaysia Hossein Fereydoun is hopeful that the ties would be enhanced.

He said this was possible because there were wide opportunities in areas such as trade and tourism that could be explored by both countries.

Describing the present ties as being at the best level, he said Iranians had got to know Malaysia better with the increasingly good ties.

The ties had been enhanced especially after Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad visited Iran in 1997, he said in an interview with Bernama.

"We think Malaysia and Iran can be a good example of close cooperation between Islamic countries," said Fereydoun, who has been here for almost four years.

According to him, Malaysia and Iran also shared views on many international issues such as that concerning Bosnia-Herzegovina and those affecting the Muslim world.

On trade, Fereydoun said the volume of trade between the two countries reached US\$160 million last year.

Iran imports mainly palm oil, rubber and chemical products from Malaysia. Its exports to Malaysia include petrochemical products, fruits and carpets.

International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz led a trade mission to Iran last year to promote Malaysian goods and encourage Iranian businessmen to invest in Malaysia.

Iran is considered as one of Malaysia's newly-emerging and important trade partners with the capacity to help market Malaysian products in the Gulf region.

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