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Ling: Direct KL-Seoul flights to resume

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - Direct flights between Kuala Lumpur and Seoul will resume five times a week from Nov 7 after a one-and-a-half year halt.

Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik, who announced this today, said a code-sharing agreement between Malaysia Airlines and Korean Airlines would be signed on Tuesday to facilitate it.

"There were direct flights three times a week between the two destinations during the economic boom. But when we experienced a downturn from April last year, direct flights were discontinued.

"Subsequent to that, there were three flights per week to Seoul from Kuala Lumpur via Singapore and vice versa.

"Resuming direct flights between the two countries is a clear sign of the economic recovery. It is also necessary going by the surge in the number of tourists travelling between Kuala Lumpur and Korea."

Dr Ling said this at a joint Press conference with Korean Airlines board of directors member Soho Cho at the Palace of the Golden Horses.

Cho, who is here on a working visit, is also president of Hanjin Shipping Co Ltd, one of the largest conglomerates in the industry.

Cho had earlier called on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Dr Ling said direct flights would also enable the capacity of passengers from each country to increase, as flights would no longer be through Singapore.

Malaysia Airlines will be flying on Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday, while Korean Airlines, on Tuesday and Friday.

Dr Ling said there would also be charter flights between Seoul and Langkawi from next month. "There is a huge demand for flights to the beautiful island destination of Langkawi. An agreement to facilitate this move will be signed today."

From Seoul to Langkawi, the flights will start on Nov 10. There will be flights every Wednesday.

Flights from Langkawi to Seoul, available every Sunday, will start on Nov 7.

Meanwhile, Cho said he was impressed with the developments in the country.

"I am particularly impressed with Cyberjaya and Westport." Describing Cyberjaya as a visionary project, he said Hanjin would see how it could become involved in its projects.

He expressed confidence that Westport would continue to grow with the country.

Later, Dr Ling, responding to a question, said the 17-point Hua Tuan petition for the general election was an appeal, and not a claim and was based on universal principles.

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