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Ling-KAL

MAS, KAL TO SIGN CODE-SHARING ACCORD NEXT WEEK

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 15 (Bernama) -- Malaysia Airlines (MAS) and South Korea's Korean Air (KAL) will sign a code-sharing agreement next week that will enable the two airlines to operate five direct flights weekly between the two countries beginning next month, Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said today.

With this arrangement, MAS will fly to Seoul every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday while KAL will fly to Kuala Lumpur every Tuesday and Friday, he said.

Dr Ling said the move means KAL would resume its direct flights to Kuala Lumpur after halting it in April last year due to the regional financial crisis which affected both Malaysia and South Korea.

He said prior to the financial crisis, MAS and Korean Air had three direct flights each to their respective destinations.

"MAS still operates the services while KAL has three flights weekly to Kuala Lumpur via Singapore.

"The economic recovery in both countries have enabled us to resume these direct flights," he told reporters at a joint media conference with KAL executive vice-president Soo Ho Cho.

Soo said the arrangement would benefit the two countries especially in promoting tourism and business links as well as enhancing people-to-people relations.

"Hopefully, more Koreans will come and experience this beautiful country," he said.

He also said KAL would operate chartered flights to Langkawi every Wednesday beginning Nov 10.

He, however, said the flights were only for November

KAL would continue the flights if there is a demand, he said.

Earlier, Soo, who is also Hanjin Shipping Company president, called on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in Putrajaya, visited the West Port and Cyberjaya.

He said he was impressed with the West Port where his company's ships have made several calls.

"There's plenty of room for expansion. As Malaysia develops, the port will see more growth," he said.

Soo said he was also attracted to the concept used in Cyberjaya, Malaysia's Intelligent City, and commended Dr Mahathir for mooted the idea.

"I'm thinking about how I can get involve in Cyberjaya for our company in future," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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