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DR MAHATHIR-BONDS

STRONG INTEREST IN SUBSCRIBING TO M'SIAN BONDS

KUALA LUMPUR, May 17 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that many countries have expressed interest to subscribe to Malaysia's sovereign bond issue.

Besides Singapore, which has made known its intention, he said Japan has also expressed similar sentiment to subscribe to the US\$2 billion bonds.

"Many countries have expressed interest to subscribe to our sovereign bonds," he told reporters after delivering a keynote address at the 21st World Ports Conference of the International Association of Ports and Harbours here.

The finance ministry said recently that Malaysia has filed with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission a shelf registration statement under Schedule B of the U.S Securities Act of 1993 for the issuance of up to US\$3.0 billion in debt securities, of which up to US\$2 billion will be issued initially.

The ministry said the global bonds would be offered to investors in Asia, Europe and the United States.

It is also announced the appointment of Salomon Smith Barney as lead manager for the global bond offering.

Malaysia will be sending three teams to promote the bonds overseas. The first team will be led by the First Finance Minister, Tun Daim Zainuddin, the second by the Second Finance Minister, Datuk Mustapa Mohamed and the third by top Bank Negara Malaysia officials.

-- BERNAMA

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