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VENEZUELA-MALAYSIA

VENEZUELA, M'SIA AGREE ON 3RD WORLD'S GLOBALISATION STRUGGLE

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 20 (Bernama) -- Malaysia and Venezuela have agreed that it is essential to take up the struggle of Third World countries facing the onslaught of globalisation.

"Prime Minister (Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed) and myself have agreed, now more than ever, it is essential for us to take up into our own hands the struggle of people of the Third World, especially with the advent of globalisation," said Venezuela President Hugo Chavez Frias.

"Globalisation sometimes misinterpret things and does not recognise borders between countries, the sovereignty of countries, self determination of countries, and that it has not brought anything good to the world," he said.

Chavez said Venezuela and Malaysia have also agreed to deploy efforts in Asia, the Carribean, Latin America and Africa to strengthening the Group of 15, an important organisation for Third World countries.

He disclosed that Venezuela has agreed to open a centre for Asian studies and hoped that Malaysia would open a simlar centre for Latin American studies.

Chavez said the joint declaration signed between the two countries would be proof of the success of his visit to Malaysia.

"The idea is to review all the agreements that have been signed in the past between Venezuela and Malaysia, to update them, and to relaunch them for the future.

"We are also reviewing joint projects for the future and looking into proposals, including those related to the petrochemical industry."

Chavez reiterated that Malaysian and Venezuela yesterday decided to reactivate their joint commission in a bid to strengthen and renew bilateral ties and co-operation.

"The joint commission had not met since 1991 and now we are going to meet in Caracas before the end of the year," he said. -- BERNAMA

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