

18 OCT 2000

Electricity

INDONESIA PLANS TO SELL ELECTRICITY TO MALAYSIA

LANGKAWI, Oct 18 (Bernama) -- Indonesia plans to sell electricity to Malaysia through a 170-km-long underwater cable network from Riau to Johor, its Mineral Resources and Energy Minister Purnomo Yusgiantoro said today.

According to him, Indonesian President Abdurrahman Wahid raised the proposal with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad during their meeting here yesterday.

"Dr Mahathir said he would consider the matter," Purnomo said in an interview.

Riau has sizeable coal deposits and Indonesia was willing to set up a coal-powered power station there to supply electricity to Malaysia, he said.

The area could produce 5,000 MW of electricity, Purnomo said.

Purnomo was here accompanying Abdurrahman on two day working visit which ended today.

The Indonesian president and entourage departed for Hong Kong today enroute to Seoul to attend the third Asia-Europe Meeting (Asem) on Friday.

Purnomo said Indonesia has also invited Petronas, Malaysia's national oil corporation, to explore and produce oil in South Sumatera.

According to him, Petronas has agreed to carry out feasibility studies on the project which could be carried out as a joint-venture with Indonesia's state-owned oil company, Pertamina.

-- BERNAMA

JM NH RYN