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KL proposes health project

M/PMC) 2000" by Kamarulzaman Salleh in Bangkok

MALAYSIA has proposed a health project for the East Asian region following the Asean Plus Three meeting yesterday.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said a concept paper would be produced following the meeting involving the group's 10 member countries with their counterparts from China, Japan and South Korea.

He said Japan had also agreed to co-operate with Malaysia to train economic officers from Myanmar.

Japan would provide the funding while Malaysia would conduct the training programme.

It was the first official meeting at ministerial-level following the Joint Statement on East Co-operation in Manila last year.

Syed Hamid said the meeting complemented two earlier Economic Ministers and Finance Ministers Meetings involving the 13 countries.

"We are happy that the East Asia Co-operation proposed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in 1990 has finally come to fruition," he told reporters after the meeting.

The meeting was part of the 33rd Asean Ministerial Meeting/Post-Ministerial Conference and 7th Asean Regional Forum hosted by Thailand.

He said that during the meeting, China had proposed to undertake technical co-operation in such areas as science and agriculture.

South Korea, among others, proposed to organise an exchange of relatives programme with the North.

Syed Hamid said South Korea briefed the meeting that the summit in Manila had produced practical results.

"Their relationship (with North Korea) two months ago and now is very different.

"They have started working (together) which Asean welcomes because we consider that peace and stability of the Korean peninsula will contribute to the peace and stability of the East Asian region," he said.

Syed Hamid said that South Korea wanted to deepen further the co-operation following the meeting.

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