

10 FEB 2000

Envoy-Embassy

MAHATHIR TO OPEN NEW MALAYSIAN MISSION COMPLEX IN BANGKOK

By: Muin Abdul Majid

BANGKOK, Feb 10 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will officially open the new Malaysian embassy complex in the Thai capital tomorrow upon arrival here to attend the 10th United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (Unctad)

Malaysian ambassador to Thailand Datuk Syed Ariff Fadzillah said today construction of the facility symbolised the close relations between the two neighbouring countries.

The project was jointly undertaken by Malaysian construction firm, Percon and Siam Syntech of Thailand.

"It underscores the philosophy of cooperation via joint-ventures between companies from both countries," he told Malaysian journalists covering the Unctad meeting.

Syed Ariff said although the complex was completed in December 1998, it would only be appropriate for the prime minister to open it officially.

The brownish-grey complex occupies the same site of the old embassy building in busy South Sathorn Road in downtown Bangkok.

The complex, among others, houses the chancery building, the ambassador's residence and mission staff quarters.

Syed Ariff said the mission currently has 30 Malaysian and 40 Thai employees and ranks fourth in terms of size and number of personnel after the ones in London, Tokyo and Jakarta.

-- BERNAMA

MAM RYN