

with

Equatorial Guinea

PUTRAJAYA: Malaysia and the Republic of Equatorial Guinea yesterday marked the start of new relations by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance bilateral economic, scientific, technical and cultural co-operation.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and President Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, who is on a two-day state visit to Malaysia, witnessed the signing of the MoU at the end of their meeting here. Mbasogo was accompanied by a 30-member delegation.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid A!bar said Mbasogo told Dr Mahathir that his country was interested to learn from Malaysia and would like to emulate the country's model of development, especially in the fields of agriculture and technology.

He was also interested in setting up an administration capital similar to Putrajaya.

"Dr Mahathir responded by saying that Malaysia was an open book and that any country was welcome to learn from its experience," Syed Hamid said after the meeting.

He said Equatorial Guinea was also interested in inviting Malaysians to invest in the country, especially in oil and gas and the exploration of other natural resources.

Several Malaysian companies are now involved in Equatorial Guinea's wood-based industry and Petronas is already operating there.

Syed Hamid said Dr Mahathir also invited Equatorial Guinea to send its people for training in Malaysia.