

15/09/2001

Agreement on 'sister port' with Yemen

deborah loh

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - The port authorities of Malaysia and the Republic of Yemen have agreed on a "sister port" arrangement to boost trade development between the two countries.

The Port Klang Authority is to help the Yemen Ports Authority with information exchange, technical assistance, port studies as well as training.

Yemen has also invited the Port Klang Authority to jointly develop and manage part of Aden Port.

Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik, who announced this today, said Malaysia was very interested in this offer and would study it.

He was speaking here at a joint-Press conference with Yemeni Minister of Transport and Maritime Affairs Capt Saeed Abdullah Al Yafe'e.

"Aden Port is in a very strategic location on the Suez Canal," Dr Ling said. "It is a golden opportunity."

Saeed Abdullah arrived here on Sept 4 and his visits here included Port Klang, the Kuala Lumpur International Airport and the Malaysian Highway Authority.

"You have a very advanced level of privatisation, which is the way of the future. Yemen also wants to privatise many of its sectors and we hope to learn from you," he said.

Ling said his counterpart considered KLIA Bhd, the planner and developer of KLIA, a "well-kept secret".

"He told me that KLIAB should make themselves more known to the Middle East which need consultants for their development projects."

Ling also said the Red Sea and its 100 islands had untapped tourism potential as it was a prime site for scuba diving.

"I hope Malaysian entrepreneurs will consider this venture as well as it is close to the European tourist market."

Saeed Abdullah said Yemen had many interests in Malaysian goods as the country depended mainly on imports.

"The problem is Malaysian goods are coming into Yemen through a third country," he said, noting the room for direct Malaysian investment there.

His visit here is at the invitation of Ling who had accompanied Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir to Yemen last month.

Last week, Yemen and Malaysia signed an agreement on air services arrangements between the two countries.

Saeed Abdullah also visited Port Dickson, Genting Highlands and will stop in Langkawi before returning to Yemen next week.