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MAHATHIR-VISIT

DR MAHATHIR VISITS MALAYSIAN PROJECTS DESPITE HECTIC APEC SCHEDULE

By: Ridzuan Zulkifli

SHANGHAI, Oct 21 (Bernama) -- It was vintage Datuk Seri Mahathir Mohamad who despite his hectic schedule at the 9th Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Leaders' Meeting here, still managed to squeeze in a visit to two Malaysian projects in the city and launch a restaurant.

Immediately after attending the crucial APEC leaders retreat today, which marked the conclusion of the two-day meeting, the Prime Minister proceeded to visit Dino Beach Waterpark, a water theme park owned by Golden Plus Holdings Bhd.

The park which carries a pre-historic concept, lies on 25 acres of land in the Minhang District, a Shanghai suburb populated by 1.2 million residents, about 35 km from the city's Pudong central business district.

Shanghai itself has a population of 16 million people, making it the second largest city in China after Beijing.

Opened in June 1997, the park is operated by Golden Plus's subsidiary, Shanghai Roxy Leisure Co. Ltd.

The company invested RM120 million ringgit to build the park.

During the visit, Dr Mahathir was given a briefing on the park's operation by Golden Plus's Group Managing Director, Teh Soon Seng.

Next on the itinerary was a visit to the Royal Garden development site which is also a mixed development residential project by Golden Plus, located next to Dino Beach Waterpark.

Dr Mahathir was again in his element when he took deep interest in the project and thereafter advised Malaysian investors to take courage and venture abroad.

The Royal Garden is classified by the developer as a "major high-end residential township" ever constructed in Shanghai.

The whole project is expected to be fully completed in 2005 with a total investment of RM750 million.

It is only five minutes away from Shanghai's Hong Qiao International Airport, which would make it one of the more desirable addresses in the city when completed.

Dr Mahathir was then whisked away for his final press conference on APEC at the International Media Centre (IMC) before heading back to his hotel, the Jin Mao Grand Hyatt.

At the hotel, he officially launched the Kyros Kebab Restaurant which is a venture by another Malaysian company, Gettmore Sdn Bhd.

As usual, his schedule Monday, like any other day, begins early.

His leaves for the Chinese province of Qingdao, immediately after a bilateral meeting with Japanese Prime Minister, Junichiro Koizumi scheduled at 8.30 am. -- BERNAMA

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