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Malaysia-Morocco

MALAYSIA-MOROCCO JOINT COMMISSION TO FOSTER CLOSER COOPERATION

PUTRAJAYA, Nov 13 (Bernama) -- Malaysia and Morocco today signed three memorandums of understanding (MoU) to enhance bilateral relations and cooperation between the two countries, including the formation of a Joint Commission covering economic, technical, scientific and cultural aspects.

The signing ceremony was witnessed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his Moroccan counterpart Abderrahmane El Youssefi. The agreements were signed after a meeting between the two leaders at the Prime Minister's Department here.

The agreement on economic, technical, scientific and cultural cooperation was signed by Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar and the Moroccan Transport and Marine Trade Minister Abdesslam Znined, the air services agreement was signed by Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik and Abdesslam while the one on the exchange of expertise in the information technology was signed by Multimedia Development Corporation (MDC) executive chairman Tan Sri Othman Yeop Abdullah and the Chairman of the Surveillance Council for the Moroccan Information Tecnopark Corporation (MITC) Nasr Hajji who is also the Secretary of State in the Prime Minister's Department

Abderrahmane arrived yesterday with a 36-member delegation on a four-day visit to Malaysia.

Syed Hamid told reporters later that Morocco had invited Petronas to participate directly and actively in oil and gas exploration in that country.

Currently, Petronas's involvement in Morocco is through the Syarikat Energy Afrika. Petronas has an interest in the company.

Syed Hamid also said that in the field of investment and trade, Dr Mahathir and Abderrahmane had agreed that both countries increased the two-way trade which was still negligible amounting to RM86 million a year which was in Malaysia's favour.

Morocco also wanted Malaysia to use the country as an entry point for Malaysian goods to the European market while Malaysia wanted Morocco to use Malaysia as the entry point for Moroccan goods for Asean and Asian markets.

Syed Hamid said Dr Mahathir also wanted Morocco to send more students to study in this country especially in the technical and information technology including at the Multimedia University.

Malaysia also offered training programmes under the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme as Malaysia had good educational infrastructure.

There are only two Moroccan students currently studying here.

Syed Hamid said both parties also discussed increasing cooperation in investment, tourism and information and communication technology besides international issues including terrorism.

He said Malaysia and Morocco also had an understanding in handling the West Asian issue especially on Palestine.

"Both leaders feel there is a need for efforts to resolve the Palestinian problems and the establishment of a Palestinian nation to tackle the problems in that region," Syed Hamid added.

-- BERNAMA

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