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Vajpayee-M'sia

M'SIA-INDIA SHOULD GO BEYOND TRADITIONAL AREAS OF COOPERATION

PUTRAJAYA, May 14 (Bernama) -- Malaysia and India should tap the full potential in infrastructure development and newer knowledge-based technologies to go beyond the traditional areas of cooperation, Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee said tonight.

In this context, he said Malaysia can build more highways in India while India can build more railways in Malaysia.

He said both countries should try to maximise the synergy between India's software proficiency and Malaysia's impressive manufacturing strength in hardware.

However, he noted that sustainable progress in these knowledge-based enterprises depended on education and training of young men and women in large numbers.

"India will be happy to share its expertise in professional and technical education with your country for mutual benefit," he said at a dinner hosted by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at Seri Perdana here.

Vajpayee, who is on a four-day visit, said India was now among the 10 fastest growing economies in the world and the fourth largest economy in purchasing power parity.

"The process of economic reform which was initiated a decade ago has created many opportunities for trade, business and investment

"I'm happy Malaysia is already India's largest trading partner in Asean," he said.

Vajpayee said India was seeking to build a stronger structure on the foundation of its long-standing friendship with Malaysia based on the people-to-people interaction in every field and on substantially strengthened economic engagement in old and new areas.

-- BERNAMA

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