

PM to woo Korean investors during visit

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will visit South Korea from May 22 to 24 on a mission to woo investors to the industrial sector here besides upgrading co-operation in information technology.

South Korean Ambassador Rhee Young Min said the three-day visit would see Dr Mahathir touring industrial sites in different parts of the country.

Dr Mahathir may visit the Samsung Electronic plant in Suwon or the science and technology complex in Taejeon, for a first-hand view of developments in the sectors.

"This visit to Korea comes after several years and we are looking forward to it as an enhancement of the strong ties between Korea and Malaysia," he said in an interview.

Earlier addressing the "International Conference on Malaysia's Look East Policy: Challenges and Contributions" he said Dr Mahathir's Seoul visit would be a significant development in bilateral relations.

Rhee said Dr Mahathir was scheduled to meet South Korean President Kim Dae-jung for discussions on ways of enhancing economic and political co-operation

They are scheduled to discuss ways to promote a substantial increase in economic dealings between both countries and further South Korean investment here. The economic agenda, however, has not been finalised," he added.

Rhee said there was room for greater South Korean investment in Malaysia which was an ideal location for trade and manufacturing.

On whether Kim would reciprocate Dr Mahathir's impending visit, he said it may not be possible this year due to the forthcoming presidential elections.

However, Kim may meet Dr Mahathir at regional economic and political summits later this year.

On the political and security fronts, he said Malaysia and South Korea had a good understanding on issues affecting the region.