

Tighter security affecting tourism and trade in US

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SHAH ALAM: America's post-Sept 11 security measures are considered too restrictive even by some of its own citizens, said Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (Matrade) trade commissioner Jamaludin Hussain.

"Certain American groups are lobbying their congressmen, urging the administrators be more flexible as heightened security has affected businesses and tourism," he said.

Jamaludin, who is based in New York, was giving a briefing yesterday on doing business in America, 10 months after the Sept 11 incident in which terrorists attacked New York World

Trade Centre's Twin Towers.

He acknowledged that tighter security measures, such as the longer time taken to issue visas, had dissuaded some local businessmen from participating in trade fairs and road shows organised by Matrade.

He said Malaysian businessmen must be prepared to accept the longer time it would take to deliver their goods to America as the country continued to maintain alert Level 1 at all entry points.

"But it has to be made clear the treatment received by Malaysian businessmen and tourists is the same given to all foreigners wanting to enter America," he said at a

talk on business opportunities in America organised by the SSIC Berhad, the investment arm of the Selangor state government.

Jamaludin added that American businessmen had no problem conducting trade with their Malaysian counterparts.

"The mutual understanding between American and Malaysian businessmen is further enhanced by the extensive efforts done by the Government in explaining our political position to the US government," said Jamaludin, who cited Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's recent visit to the United States as a point of reference.