

# **Host Europe-OIC talks, Kyrgyz urges Malaysia**

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PUTRAJAYA: Kyrgyz wants Malaysia to host a meeting between Europe and Islamic countries to discuss the threat of terrorism and its causes.

Kyrgyz president Askar Askayev has asked Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to organise the talks between the Organisation of Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC).

"He (Askayev) wants the meeting to be held next year (when the Prime Minister assumes the chairmanship of the OIC)," Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar told a press conference after the two leaders met here yesterday.

He said the Kyrgyz president believed a meeting involving the OSCE and OIC could promote a better understanding between the two organisa-

tions about the nature of terrorism.

Syed Hamid said both Askayev and Dr Mahathir agreed that terrorism should not be linked to any particular race or religion.

"Askayev also agreed that to overcome terrorism, we should look at the causes and take the necessary steps to eliminate them," he added.

Earlier, the two leaders met for about two hours at the Prime Minister's Office here.

After the meeting, they witnessed the signing of two memoranda of understanding and a bilateral payment arrangement by officials of the two countries.

Dr Mahathir also presented 15 computers to Askayev as a token of the close ties between the two countries.

Syed Hamid said Dr Mahathir had agreed to find a suitable time for the

planned dialogue.

He added that the two countries also agreed to improve bilateral ties through trade and investment.

Syed Hamid said Askayev regarded Malaysia as a model developing country and Kyrgyz sought to emulate its success.

Kyrgyz also sought Malaysia's help to formulate -what Askayev called the "Mahathir Development Plan" - a long-term economic development plan for the country.

"The Prime Minister stressed the importance of having consistent policies and a conducive climate for investment to flourish," Syed Hamid said.

He added that Malaysia had also agreed to train officials from Kyrgyz under the Technical Co-operation Programme and help its students.