

Power brings two nations

closer

STAR 22 DEC 2002

ALOR STAR: Malaysia and Thailand have taken a step further to forge closer ties by jointly undertaking the High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) interconnection project, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday.

He said Thailand had made advances in power technology and there was much Malaysia could benefit in the area.

"There will be time when we need to buy power supply from them (Thailand) and there are times when Thailand will buy power supply from us," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the joint project was an effort to strengthen economic ties under the Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT-GT).

"We are working hard to make the IMT-GT a reality. We are going to expand our cooperation in transport including better railway connection (between both countries)," he said.

He was speaking here at the joint launching of Malaysia-Thailand 300/600 MW HVDC Interconnection and Gurun HVDC Converter Station with Thai Prime Minister Dr Thaksin Shinawatra.

The RM400mil project is jointly undertaken by two utility companies, Tenaga Nasional Malaysia Bhd and Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand.

The project was completed in Sept 20 last year and put to commercial use a month later.