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Talks on BMW regional centre making progress

THE BMW Group's talks to set up a regional operations centre in Malaysia is progressing well but there is still some way to go before an agreement is reached.

"Our talks are progressing well but it is our policy not to disclose details until they are finalised," its senior vice president sale division Luder Paysen said in a statement yesterday.

The move came after Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's visit to Germany in March, where he met with BMW group's management.

The group said there have been discussions with local partners and also government officials following Dr Mahathir's visit.

Paysen was in Kuala Lumpur for a two-day conference which began yesterday.

"We are very keen to invest in Malaysia and although we are still in discussions, we feel that we are already able to show our commitment by organising this annual conference here," he said.

The group first invested in East Asia in 1981 when it set up its subsidiary in Japan. BMW Korea was formed in 1994, and the group also has subsidiaries in Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines, China and Singapore.

Meanwhile, the group plans to introduce some 20 new models and three new engine series in the various market segments.