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Ling-China

BOOST TIES WITH CHINA FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH, SAYS LING

JOHOR BAHRU, Dec 10 (Bernama) -- Malaysia should strengthen ties with China, South Korea, Taiwan, Japan and India in order to benefit from these countries' rapid growth, said Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik.

He said China in particular was prospering with economic growths of between eight and 10 percent in the past few years.

"I believe that in future China will have a big influence in the Asia-Pacific and Southeast Asia...we should further strengthen ties with China," he told reporters after attending a dinner organised by the Johor Baharu Petty Traders Association here last night.

Dr Ling said his talks with Chinese leaders in Beijing and Shanghai recently convinced him that China's rapid growth would have positive effects on Malaysia in various aspects.

"From the discussions with Chinese leaders, I am convinced that this influence is something good, seeking cooperation and opportunities for mutual help, and this is good for the region and the whole world," he said.

Dr Ling said in this context Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's frequent visits to China, South Korea, Taiwan, Japan and India were very meaningful.

These visits would enhance Malaysia's ties with these countries and lead to better economic growth for Malaysia, he said.

During his recent visit to China, Dr Ling met the vice-chancellors of several leading universities and secured their agreement for cooperation with Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR).

"This will widen UTAR's network of cooperation with leading universities in the world," he said.

At one of the universities, Dr Ling witnessed the "magnetic levitation" system for trains, which can increase speeds to up to 600km per hour. It will be used for the train service between Shanghai city and its airport from the end of the month.

"During test runs it was running 408km an hour and it was supposed to touch 570km an hour...because of no friction," he said, adding that Malaysia would benefit if it could acquire this technology.

However, Malaysia might be too small to use such high-speed trains, he said.

-- BERNAMA

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