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Malaysia-Kyrgyz

KYRGYZ SEEKS MALAYSIA'S SUPPORT FOR OSCE-OIC DIALOGUE

PUTRAJAYA, Aug 5 (Bernama) -- The Republic of Kyrgyz today sought Malaysia's assistance and support in setting up a dialogue between the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) to foster understanding on Islam next year.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said the Kyrgyz request was conveyed during the bilateral meeting between the Kyrgyz delegation headed by its President, Askar Akayev and the Malaysian delegation headed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad here.

Akayev is on a two-day visit to Malaysia. Earlier, he attended the Langkawi International Dialogue (LID) which was held from Aug 1 to 4.

Syed Hamid said the proposed dialogue was to foster understanding between the Muslim countries and Europe.

"Sometimes misunderstandings on Islam are caused by the lack of dialogue and understanding on the religion by the western and European communities," he said when briefing the media after the meeting between the two countries.

He said the OIC would choose a suitable date for the dialogue.

Syed Hamid said that at the delegations meeting, both leaders discussed bilateral relations and international issues.

He said both leaders had exchanged views on violence and how to overcome the problem as well as the Palestine-Israel conflict.

"President Kyrgyz also agreed that violence knows no bounds and should not be associated with any one race or religion," he said.

Syed Hamid said Dr Mahathir and Akayev had also discussed how bilateral relations and economic cooperation between Malaysia and Kyrgyz could be enhanced.

He said President Kyrgyz considered Malaysia to be a model country for the republic to emulate in terms of economic development and had also used Malaysia's proposal as the country's 10-year development and economic plans.

Syed Hamid said the plan was known as Dr Mahathir's Economic Plan as it was proposed by Malaysia.

The Kyrgyz President also expressed satisfaction at the proceedings of LID which, according to him, was something beneficial compared to the Davos World Economic Forum as it enabled developing countries to exchange views on establishing smart partnership, he said.

Syed Hamid said Dr Mahathir also stressed on the importance of a consistent policy by Kyrgyz as well as conducive investment climate to encourage foreign investment.

Dr Mahathir pledged to encourage more Malaysian entrepreneurs to invest in Kyrgyz and hoped that any agreement on cooperation and economy between the two countries would always be honoured.

Syed Hamid said Malaysia also agreed to train Kyrgyz officers and staff under the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP).

He said a direct flight connecting Bishkek and Kuala Lumpur would commence tomorrow following the setting up of the joint venture between a Malaysian company, Safuan Group, and Kyrgyz Republic International Airlines.

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