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MELAKA TO HOLD THREE MORE TRADE MISSIONS

By: Sha'rin Sahad

SHANGHAI, Sept 22 (Bernama) -- In the wake of the successful trade mission to Jiangsu Province and Shanghai, the Melaka government plans to hold another three trade missions abroad this year.

Chief Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Ali Rustam said this time the trade missions, to be held over the next two months, would head for the United States, Holland and India.

The Melaka government was confident that the foreign direct investments (FDI) in the state would reach its target of RM1 billion this year, he told reporters here.

Mohd Ali said as of last August the FDI in Melaka was RM733.4 million.

He said several firms from Taiwan, Singapore and Europe were waiting for approval from the Malaysian Industrial Development Authority (Mida) before starting their operations in Melaka.

On the week-long trade mission to Jiangsu and Shanghai which started last Sept 17, he said it had created a bond between Melaka and Jiangsu apart from attracting investors from Shanghai.

He said Jiangsu officials would reciprocate the visit next month while 70 booths at the Melaka International Tourism Fair in April next year had been booked by Jiangsu entrepreneurs.

Jiangsu Governor, Ji Yunshi, would visit Melaka in April in conjunction with the Historic City of Melaka celebration.

On the three trade missions, Mohamed Ali said the visit to the United States was to learn several K-incubator and information communications technology (ICT) programmes which can be applied in Melaka.

While in Holland, the Melaka delegation would visit the international floral and fruit exposition, held once every 10 years, expected to draw millions of tourists.

Mohd Ali said Melaka would introduce the concept at the Selandar Tropical Fruits Farm, to be opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Oct 3.

As for the trade mission to India, Mohd Ali said he would visit several companies in the country's silicone valley to view investment opportunities there.

"We hope, apart from drawing investors, to promote tourism in Melaka in the three countries," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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