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Agong-Kyrgyz

MALAYSIA SEEKS CLOSER TIES WITH KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 5 (Bernama) -- Malaysia wants the close ties it has forged with Kyrgyz Republic over the past decade to be further enhanced, says the Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Syed Putra Jamalullail said efforts by the two countries to intensify bilateral cooperation had been fruitful and productive to both of them.

"The Special Joint Economic Commission that meets annually at alternate capitals bear testimony to the success of our collaboration," the King said at a state banquet in honour of Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev at Istana Negara tonight.

Also present were Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Fauziah Tengku Abdul Rashid, and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali.

Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin said both countries had similar aspirations to promote the economic, social, cultural and scientific development of its citizens.

"This can only be achieved through diligence and perseverance. By creating the conditions that will enable our countries to develop successfully, we can ensure peace, stability and prosperity for our peoples," he said.

The King said he was happy to note that the Kyrgyz Republic and Malaysia were establishing direct airlinks which would facilitate greater people to people contacts.

"Such contacts are always useful to foster better understanding of each other's culture," he said.

Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin said Malaysia and the Kyrgyz Republic faced many challenges, and were both actively involved in the struggle against terrorism.

"In this age of globalisation, no country can live in isolation. What happens in one country will affect another although it is situated far away.

"There is a need therefore for like minded countries to move forward in the true spirit of cooperation to overcome the many problems besetting us," he said.

Akayev, who had attended the Langkawi International Dialogue last week, is now on a two-day visit to Malaysia.

Accompanied by his wife, Mairam Akayeva, the Kyrgyz president's entourage includes Cabinet ministers, senior government officials and businessmen.

Akayev's visit, his second after 1995, commemorates the 10th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Malaysia and the Kyrgyz Republic.

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