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## Malaysia-Thailand power co-operation

ALOR STAR, Sat. - The Malaysia-Thai relationship entered a new dimension today when the Prime Ministers of both countries launched the Malaysia-Thailand 300/600 MW Interconnection project which is a significant move towards the realisation of the Asean "power highway".

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, in his speech, said the project was one of the initiatives which would spur the growth of the two countries.

He said improving rail links and implementing various projects under the Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle, including extending the border crossing hours and opening of the Durian Burung border town on the Malaysian side, would generate growth for the two countries.

Expressing gratitude to Thaksin Shinawatra and his Ministers for accepting Malaysia's invitation to attend the National Hari Raya Aidilfitri Open House in Jitra tonight, Dr Mahathir said their visit would augur well for the future relations between the two nations.

Present at the launch, held at a hotel here, were Energy, Communications and Multimedia Minister Datuk Amar Leo Moggie and his Thai counterpart Ponthep Thepkanchana.

Thaksin said the presence of Thai delegation at the celebration marked "a new page in the history of relationship between the two countries".

He said the informal talks between the Cabinets of the two countries in Haadyai, a town in southern Thailand, tomorrow would be a historic event which had attracted the attention of the international community.

Thaksin said Dr Mahathir had contributed immensely towards the prosperity of the region.

On the project, Thaksin said it had strengthened energy co-operation between the two countries, adding the project was a clear manifestation of the intention of the two countries to realise the implementation of the Asean "power highway" or Asean Interconnected Transmission Grid.

The high voltage direct current system, in operation since May, connects a 110km transmission line between a 500/275kV DC converter substation in Gurun, Kedah and a 230kV DC converter substation in Khlong Ngae, Thailand.

Among the advanced features of the HVDC technology was the ability to control and determine power transfers as well as being capable of transferring power between the two countries during system disturbances and emergencies.