

23 APR 2002
Abdullah-China
ABDULLAH CALLS ON CHINESE VICE-PRESIDENT

KUALA LUMPUR, April 23 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi hosted a dinner for visiting Chinese Vice-President Hu Jintao at the Palace of the Golden Horses Hotel, here, tonight.

Present were Hu's wife, Liu Yongqing, and the 65-member Chinese delegation.

Among the Malaysian dignitaries present were Information Minister Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob, Defence Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, Primary Industries Minister Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik, Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting and deputy ministers.

Earlier, Abdullah met Hu at the same venue

Hu, who is making his first visit here, arrived this evening for a four-day official at the invitation of Abdullah to strengthen bilateral ties and explore economic opportunities between the two countries.

Hu, 60, speculated to succeed China's President Jiang Ze Min when the latter's term ends next year, will have a busy schedule tomorrow starting with an audience with Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Syed Putra Jamallulail at Istana Negara.

The vice-president will give a special talk organised by the Asian Strategic Leadership Institute (Asli) and witness the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between Asli and the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade on the establishment of the Malaysia-China Business Council.

Hu will have a closed-door meeting with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the Prime Minister's Department in Putrajaya before attending a private dinner hosted by Dr Mahathir at Seri Perdana, Putrajaya.

Hu will also attend a delegation meeting tomorrow.

He will fly to Penang for a one-day visit on Thursday before heading for Singapore on Friday, the second leg of a three-nation tour which includes the United States.

-- BERNAMA

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