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Malaysia-Vietnam

VIETNAM VALUES TIES WITH MALAYSIA, SAYS SYED HAMID

PUTRAJAYA, March 8 (Bernama) -- Vietnam values highly its ties with Malaysia, being one of the first countries to establish cooperation with it, said Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar today.

He said the bilateral ties had expanded to include the latest move by Malaysia to import workers from Vietnam for certain sectors.

"I think Vietnam has a high regard for Malaysia," he told reporters after receiving a call from his Vietnamese counterpart Nguyen Dy Nien at Wisma Putra here.

He said this Kuala Lumpur-Hanoi ties was reflected in the fact that Malaysia is one of the three Asian countries having the biggest investment in Vietnam besides being ranked 13th in the world.

Dy Nien, who arrived yesterday, is heading a Vietnamese delegation to the Malaysia-Vietnam Joint Commission meeting here.

Syed Hamid said Vietnam had also invited Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for a visit.

The last time Dr Mahathir visited Vietnam was in 1996.

The volume of bilateral trade in was RM3.4 billion.

As at last January, Malaysia's exports to Vietnam increased by 13.7 per cent to RM177.5 million compared to January last year.

Over the past decade, Vietnam had opened its doors to the outside world and succeeded in attracting foreign investment.

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