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# Close ties when Abdullah becomes premier

**LANGKAWI:** Thai Prime Minister Dr Thaksin Shinawatra is confident that the relationship between his country and Malaysia will continue to prosper when Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi becomes Prime Minister in October.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said Thaksin had mentioned this to him while he was here for a one-day bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Sunday.

Speaking to reporters after sending off Thaksin and his delegation at the Langkawi International Airport in Padang Matsirat, Syed Hamid said Thaksin was touched by the warm welcome he received from Dr Mahathir here.

He said both leaders shared the view that a sound relationship would help strengthen the economies of both nations.

On current issues, Syed Hamid said both leaders discussed the dual citizenship of some people living along the border with Malaysia and expressed hope that the matter could be resolved soon.

Syed Hamid said the two government delegations also touched on to-operation in the biotechnology sector and the issuance of joint visas.

Among those present in the Thai delegation were Foreign Minister Surakiart Sathirathai, Agriculture and Co-operatives Minister Sora-at Klinpratoom, Energy Minister Prommin Lertsuridej and Commerce Minister Adisai Bodharamik.

Those in the Malaysian delegation included Second Finance Minister Datuk Dr Jamaludin Jarjis; Science, Technology and Environment Minister Datuk Low Hieng Ding; International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz; and Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Syed Razak Syed Zain.