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OIC-Saudi Arabia

CROWN PRINCE ABDULLAH FOR PUTRAJAYA OIC SUMMIT

PUTRAJAYA, Oct 9 (Bernama) -- Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Abdullah Abdul Aziz Al-Saud will lead the kingdom's delegation to the 10th Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) Summit here on Oct 16 and 17, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said today.

Prior to his attendance at the summit, the Crown Prince who is Deputy Premier and Commander of the National Guard of Saudi Arabia, would make a two-day official visit to Malaysia from Tuesday at the invitation of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, he said.

"The visit by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Abdullah is the first by the Crown Prince to Malaysia and he is expected to be accompanied by a high level delegation comprising several ministers and senior government officials," he said in a statement today.

Crown Prince Abdullah will hold wide ranging talks with Dr Mahathir.

The Crown Prince and Dr Mahathir will exchange views on international political and economic developments and discuss issues related to the OIC, the Islamic world and the Ummah.

At the international level, Syed Hamid said Malaysia and Saudi Arabia had similar views and had been working together and supportive of each other.

Crown Prince Abdullah will attend a dinner hosted by Dr Mahathir at Seri Perdana here.

The Yang di-Pertuan Agong, Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Syed Putra Jamalullail, will host an official lunch in honour of the Crown Prince on Wednesday.

Syed Hamid said relations between Saudi Arabia and Malaysia were very good.

"The visit (of the Crown Prince) is expected to further enhance the existing close and friendly relations between the two brotherly Muslim countries and expand mutual cooperation in the religious, economic, trade and investment fields."

Cooperation would also be strengthened in science and technology, defence, finance, culture, tourism, education, youth and sports, he added.

Last year, total trade registered was at US\$781.5 million (RM2,969.7) with exports amounting to US\$383.3 million (RM1,456.54 million) against imports valued at US\$398.2 million (RM1,513.16 million).

The trade balance was in Saudi Arabia's favour by US\$14.9 million (RM56.62 million).

The bulk of Malaysia's imports from the kingdom are oil and its by-products while its exports are palm oil, electronic items, industrial and household products.

Some 200 Malaysian students are pursuing further studies in Saudi Arabia while about 120 Saudi students are in Malaysian universities and colleges.

Each year more than 50,000 tourists from the kingdom visit Malaysia.

Syed Hamid said the kingdom had been very generous to Malaysia in terms of haj quota and had allowed 50,000 Malaysians to perform the pilgrimage in Mecca every year.

-- BERNAMA

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