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Delegates-Forum

FOREIGN PARLIAMENTARIANS VISIT TOURIST SPOTS

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 15 (Bernama) -- Foreign delegates attending the 11th Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF) took the opportunity to visit several tourist spots in the city and also plan to tour other destinations in the country.

"This development is important because their visit would give them the chance to observe the peaceful environment experienced by the people here," Malaysian delegation head Datuk Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said.

The presences of foreign parliamentarians indirectly gave the chance to promote Malaysia, he told reporters on the last day of the conference here today.

On their return they would tell the real truth about Malaysia and it would be published in their media, told in their respective parliaments and to the people.

"Example, the Australian parliament members present were obviously not threatened to be in the country although their tourism advice warned this is not a safe country to visit," Ahmad Zahid said.

Foreign delegates were statisfied with the forum hosted by Malaysia and local representatives held bilateral dialogues with their Russian, Indonesian and Australian counterparts to strengthen ties among member countries involved, he said.

Meanwhile, APPF chairman Tan Sri Michael Chen said issues raised in the draft resolution was discussed rationally and members accepted the proposals put forward.

Michael Chen, president of the senate, said although some delegates had different views on certain issues, later in the forum many agreed without raising any objections.

He hoped all legislators would refer the resolutions that were agreed at the meeting to their respective governments.

"The delegates looked at issues very rationally. Now they know how to handle the issues the best way rather than do it my way," he said.

Michael Chen said for the first time sensitive issues such as terrorism was discussed in a cordial manner rather than in a hostile tone.

He also said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's keynote address created an impact on the meeting, where he expressed his feelings that the world community failed to manage itself despite the progress in technology.

-- BERNAMA

FA AZH HK VP