

18 FEB 2003

NAM-Trade

M'SIA ENJOYS COMMENDABLE TRADE WITH NAM COUNTRIES, SAYS RAFIDAH

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 18 (Bernama) -- Malaysia has been enjoying commendable trade with members of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) in the last 10 years, International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz said today.

"The growth in trade between Malaysia and member countries of NAM over the last decade has been encouraging," she said at the opening of Showcase Malaysia 2003 and Malaysia Tourism Fair 2003 at the Putra World Trade Centre here in conjunction with the 13th NAM Summit from Feb 20 to 25.

The trade exposition and the fair were opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and will run until Feb 26.

Rafidah said Malaysia's trade with NAM countries rose to RM194.7 billion last year from RM61 billion in 1992.

Exports in 2002 were valued at RM115.4 billion while imports stood at RM79.3 billion, she said.

"It is hoped that Showcase Malaysia and Malaysia Tourism Fair would serve to further enhance business and tourism linkages among NAM member countries," she said.

Rafidah said Showcase Malaysia would also be the focal point during the NAM summit for international and local business representatives to establish contacts and forge business links.

Rafidah said over 500 companies were participating in the exposition, displaying their products and services at an exhibition area of 14,000 square metres. It is organised by the Malaysian External Trade Development Corporation (Matrade).

As for the tourism fair, she said, the participation by 59 organisations would provide delegates with information on tourist destinations in Malaysia.

The fair gives delegates the opportunity to see a cross-section of Malaysian heritage such as handicraft demonstrations and colourful dances.

-- BERNAMA

MAD MAM TS