

12/10/2003

#### Companies keen to invest in Malaysia

MANY companies from OIC countries want to get involved in the Malaysian automotive, oil and gas, furniture and higher education sectors.

Pointing to countries such as Qatar, Iran, Pakistan, Kuwait and Indonesia, whose companies will participate in the Expo OIC 2003, F&R Exhibition and Conference Sdn Bhd's executive director Datuk Rosle Jaamat said:

"Special visits - such as one to the Proton plant - are being organised for groups wishing to establish contact with Malaysian manufacturers participating in this event."

Over 800 companies from the OIC countries and non-OIC members, will participate in the six-day event, which is aimed at promoting and expanding trade and investment links between OIC member countries.

Rosle, whose company is organising the mammoth exhibition which will be held in an open area next to the Putrajaya Convention Centre, hoped that the expo would spur business opportunities for Islamic countries.

"We also hope that it will see Malaysia emerge as a hub for products from OIC countries," he added.

The OIC, which has 57 members, has a 1.3 billion customer base.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is expected to open the expo on Tuesday.

Rosle said the entire 20,000 sq metre open area, which has been converted into five air-conditioned marquees for the event, had been taken up by participants.

One of the marquees comprises a 2,000 sq metre area designated for an international bazaar where thousands of products from small-sized companies of participating countries would be displayed.