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Guangdong eyes Malacca

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Province sees potential for world-class port in state

MALACCA: The state has a great potential to be an international sea port by 2025 with Sscal commitment from Guangdong, China.

Chief Minister Datuk Seri Idris Haron said Guangdong provincial government was interested to construct harbour facilities to turn Malacca into a top nautical hub in this region on par with Singapore.

"We are talking about a huge investment by the Chinese and once materialised, Malacca will be recognised as the largest port in this region," he said here yesterday.

Besides the port, Idris said Guangdong was looking at unveiling another airport here as a catalyst to tourism and industrial development in Malacca.

Guangdong governor Zhu Xiaodan, he added, had also expressed interest during his working visit to Malacca on Saturday in focusing on man-made Pulau Melaka's potential as a tourist port project as well as to cater to the



Strengthening ties

Najib observing the 'Friendly State and Province' MoU signing between Idris and Zhu at the Perdana Putra building in Putrajaya. Looking on are (back row, from left) Prime Minister's Special Envoy to China Tan Sri Ong Ka Ting, Transport Minister Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Wee Ka Siong and China's Ambassador to Malaysia Dr Huang Huikang. — Bernama

needs of the maritime industry. "Zhu is looking at the long-term, progressive development here as the state has potential as new growth area for Asean," he said.

Idris also revealed that Zhu toured the Melaka Gateway resi-

dential and commercial property project in Pulau Melaka during his visit.

"Zhu is also passionate about bringing our bilateral ties to greater heights as well as being enthusiastic about a win-win strategy for both

governments," he said.

The state government, said Idris, had created a new portfolio known as International Trade helmed by State Transport and Project Rehabilitation Committee chairman Datuk Lim Ban Hong.