

Mahathir and Xuan Phuc at the official welcoming ceremony at the Vietnamese president's residence yesterday.  
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## Malaysia, Vietnam seek to reduce trade imbalance

**HANOI:** Malaysia and Vietnam agreed to strengthen cooperation and look for new economic opportunities to reduce trade imbalance between the two Asean countries.

In a joint press conference, Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his Vietnamese counterpart Nguyen Xuan Phuc said both countries agreed to strengthen strategic cooperation in various sectors including defence, security, marine and fisheries, education, labour and tourism.

Both premiers agreed to promote investments in infrastructure, energy, high-tech agriculture, aquaculture, transport and logistics as well as facilitate the networking of

businesses in finding new opportunities.

Mahathir said Malaysia and Vietnam agreed to work together within Asean and make use of the economic bloc to grow their economies and address problems in the world and the region in particular.

"We are concerned about promoting good relations not only in terms of diplomacy but also our trade and development.

"There is much we can learn from each other. (The Vietnamese) prime minister has detailed the agreements that would lead to deeper cooperation between our two countries.

"I am looking forward to implementing the agreements we have achieved during the

discussions and meetings."

On overlapping claims by the two countries, Mahathir said disputes should be resolved in a peaceful manner through negotiations.

"There are many areas we agree and there are a few areas where we disagree, or rather, there are some disputes. But all these can be resolved between us in a friendly manner."

Mahathir said he had a very good discussion with Xuan Phuc during the private and delegation meetings.

He also invited his Vietnamese counterpart to visit Malaysia to continue discussions on bilateral relations as well as international issues.

- Bernama