

PM: MALAYSIA WELCOMES MORE INVESTMENTS FROM AUSTRIA

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Malaysia hopes to improve bilateral ties with European country, says Dr M

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PRIME Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad hopes to intensify bilateral and economic relations with Austria and welcomes more foreign direct investment from the country.

At a joint press conference with Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz at the Federal Chancellery yesterday, Dr Mahathir said 70 Austrian companies were operating in Malaysia with €860 million (RM4 billion) worth of Austrian investments a year and hoped the volume would increase in the areas of energy and infrastructure.

"We know Austria has some good industries and companies, which in the past have provided Malaysia with equipment to be used in hospitals. The cable cars in Langkawi also used Austrian technology."

He said Austria would be a good market for Malaysian products.

"We welcome more foreign direct investments from Austria. We know that Austria is good in technology. The trade volume is



Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz at a joint press conference in Vienna, Austria, yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

not big, but substantial. We hope to improve the volume."

On tourism, he said many Malaysians, especially those who love (classical) music, visited Austria and hoped more Austrian tourists would visit Malaysia.

Prior to Dr Mahathir's address, Kurz said he was honoured to meet the oldest and the most experienced leader in the world.

"As the youngest leader, I have much to learn from him," said the 32-year-old leader.

Dr Mahathir, who arrived on Sunday from London, will attend the 10th General Conference and

Annual Meeting of the International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities today, where he would share Malaysia's efforts in curbing corruption.

He will deliver a keynote address at the conference titled "15 years of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, Accomplishments and Prospects".

He is scheduled to deliver a lecture, themed "Fighting Corruption in Malaysia: Achievements, Challenges and Perspectives", at an event organised by the International Anti-Corruption Academy here.

The conference gathers political leaders, including heads of government and anti-corruption agencies, as well as practitioners, to exchange views on promoting measures to prevent and combat corruption, supporting international cooperation and technical assistance as well as promoting integrity, accountability and proper management of public affairs.

The keynote address marks the first appearance of Dr Mahathir at the Vienna International Conference. His last visit here was in 1985.