

# MALAYSIA KEEN TO LEARN FROM SOUTH KOREA

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## Dr Mahathir says students should be sent there to study engineering, information technology and new technologies

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**M**ALAYSIA is keen to continue sending students to South Korea, Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday.

He said Malaysian students should be sent there to study engineering, information technology and new technologies.

By doing so, Dr Mahathir said, Malaysia could follow in South Korea's footsteps in terms of progress and development.

"It has been pointed out by the South Korean president that his country began its industrialisation process by making a car. And look where they are today. We are very impressed, indeed.

"We also started (Malaysia's industrialisation process) by (making) a car, but we have not done as well as the Koreans," he said at a joint press conference after his meeting with South Korean President Moon Jae-in.

The prime minister also expressed Malaysia's hope that the relationship between North and South Korea would improve.

"We hope an agreement will be reached between North Korea and the United States on disarmament. As such, we expect to see peace and stability in this part of the world."

Earlier, Dr Mahathir and Moon witnessed the signing of four memorandums of understanding (MoUs) involving industrial cooperation relating to the Fourth Industrial Revolution, coopera-

tion in the field of transportation, the development of a Smart City in Malaysia, as well as cooperation in the halal industry.

Dr Mahathir hoped trade relations between Malaysia and South Korea would be enhanced with the signing of the MoUs.

He said there were many areas of cooperation in industrialisation that both nations could embark on.

"South Korea is very interested to comply with the needs of Muslim travellers and to ensure Korean products are made in halal conditions."

Last year, the bilateral trade between Malaysia and South Korea recorded an upsurge of 7.2 per cent to reach US\$17.98 billion (RM72.60 billion) compared with US\$15.76 billion in 2017.

South Korea was Malaysia's eighth largest trading partner globally and the 13th largest source of foreign direct investment last year. Malaysia was South Korea's 14th largest trading partner in the same year.

Moon said both countries had agreed to harmonise Malaysia's Look East Policy and South Korea's new Southern Policy.

Malaysia, he added, had agreed to work closely for the peace and prosperity of the Korean Peninsula and the Asean region.

"Prime Minister (Dr) Mahathir expressed unwavering support for my government's efforts to establish peace in the peninsula and agreed to cooperate closely in terms of encouraging North Korea's participation in the Asean region and in the international community as a full member."

In addition, he said, the two countries looked forward to bolstering cooperation in the defence industry, as well as cooperation in the field of public safety and cybersecurity.

"As Malaysia prepares to host the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit next year, South Korea will provide active support to ensure its success."

Moon said South Korea had taken note of the steady increase in people exchange between the countries, recording one million mutual visitors per year.

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**TUN DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD**  
Prime minister