

RUSSIA MAY SET UP AEROSPACE VARSITY IN MALAYSIA

Russian proposal will boost investment and promote transfer of technology, says PM



M. THILLINADAN

VLADIVOSTOK (Russia)

RUSSIA has shown interest in the establishment of an aerospace university in Malaysia.

Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Malaysia was an education hub in Southeast Asia and welcomed Russia to invest in the education sector.

"We are interested in aerospace and engineering.

"I am confident that Russia's proposal to set up an aerospace university will not only boost investment, but also promote the transfer of technology in the sector.

"I believe that we can gain knowledge and experience from Russia in the sector," he said at the 5th Eastern Economic Forum here on Wednesday.

Present were Russian President Vladimir Putin, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Mongolian President Khaltmaagiin Battulga.

Malaysia has 150,000 foreign students.

Dr Mahathir said the Vladivostok region, which he visited for the first time, had the potential to attract Malaysian investments, especially in the tourism sector.

EEF was conceived by Putin in 2015 to develop Russia's Far East.

He said Malaysia's location in the centre of the Asian route made it suitable for Russian investors to explore opportunities in Southeast Asia.

Earlier, he attended separate meetings with Putin and Modi on the sidelines of EEF.

During his meeting with Putin, both leaders agreed to explore investment opportunities in both countries.

Putin agreed to share Russia's experience and expertise in engineering, naval and aerospace technology.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia was interested in gaining access to Russian technology, including space technology.

Putin referred to Malaysia as its leading partner in Asia.

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TUN DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD
Prime minister

In his meeting with Modi, it was learnt that both leaders touched on bilateral issues, including on controversial Muslim preacher and scholar Dr Zakir Naik, 53.

The preacher from India, who is a permanent resident in Malaysia, is wanted by the Indian authorities since 2016 for alleged money laundering.

Foreign Minister Datuk Saifuddin Abdullah in June said Malaysia would not extradite Zakir to his home country despite receiving an extradition application from India to face money-laundering charges.

Zakir maintained his innocence on terrorism charges made against him in India.