

# MoUs to be inked in Seoul

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## PM to witness signing as he leads delegation to meeting with Moon

**BUSAN:** Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad and South Korean President Moon Jae-in will witness the signing of four memorandums of understanding – in information and communications technology, digital government, healthcare and medical science, as well as water and sewerage management – in Seoul.

Dr Mahathir and his wife Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali will undertake a two-day official visit to Seoul starting Wednesday after attending the Asean-South Korea Commemorative Summit 2019 in Busan.

This will be his first official visit to South Korea after becoming the Prime Minister in May last year.

During the visit, he will lead the Malaysian delegation to a bilateral

meeting with Moon.

The meeting is a follow-up to both leaders' discussion in Kuala Lumpur during Moon's state visit to Malaysia in March.

Issues to be discussed include cooperation in trade and investment, development of the halal industry, cooperation in healthcare and medical science, information and communications technology, digital government, transportation, defence as well as collaboration in tourism and culture, Malaysian Ambassador to South Korea Datuk Mohd Ashri Muda (*pic*) told the media here.

Both sides will also discuss efforts to further elevate the bilateral rela-



tions between the two countries into a strategic partnership, as Malaysia and South Korea move towards the 60th anniversary of the establishment of their diplomatic relations in 2020.

At the same time, both leaders will also discuss regional and international issues of mutual interest.

Yonhap News Agency reported that South Korea is exploring the possibility of forging individual free trade deals with more Asean member states and pushing to clinch free trade deals with Malaysia and the Philippines by the end of the year.

On top of attending official programmes, Dr Mahathir is also

scheduled to participate in a roundtable business meeting with South Korean captains of industry and receive a courtesy call from Kim Hyung, president and chief executive officer of Daewoo Engineering and Construction Co Ltd.

He will also take the opportunity to meet with the Malaysian diaspora in Seoul.

During the visit, Dr Mahathir will be accompanied by Foreign Affairs Minister Datuk Saifuddin Abdullah, International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Darell Leiking, Communications and Multimedia Minister Gobind Singh Deo, Health Minister Datuk Seri Dzulkefly Ahmad, as well as Water, Land and Natural Resources Minister Datuk Dr Xavier Jayakumar. — Bernama