

South Korean aerospace sector impressive,

says Tun Mahathir

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SACHEON (South Korea): Malaysia is impressed with the progress that South Korea has made in the aerospace industry and wants to learn from the East Asian economic powerhouse.

Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is on an official visit to the Korea Aerospace Industries (KAI) facility here, noted that South Korea had made great strides in the field since his last visit in 2002.

"I have always been interested in fighter planes and indigenous planes. I want to see how they perform and learn more about the advancement in your aircraft industry," he told KAI chief executive officer Ahn Hyun-ho.

A licensed pilot and an avid follower of aero technology, the prime minister spent more than two hours at the facility and also attended a 30-minute meeting with company officials.

Sacheon is located about 100km from Busan, the host city of the Asean-South Korea Commemorative Summit 2019, which Mahathir is scheduled to attend.

Mahathir later toured the facility where he was briefed on KAI's FA-50 Fighting Eagle light combat aircraft (LCA).

Also present were Foreign Minister Datuk Saifuddin Abdullah, International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Ignatius Darell Leiking, Malaysian Ambassador to South Korea Datuk Mohd Ashri Muda and Malaysian Defence Attache in Seoul Kol Mohd Sobirin Mohd Yusof.

Malaysia is currently considering its options on acquiring the LCA.



Mahathir looking at an FA-50 Fighting Eagle light combat aircraft during his visit to the Korea Aerospace Industries yesterday.
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