

**Malaysia Ready To Begin E-commerce Initiative And Infrastructure Fund
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KUWAIT CITY, Oct 16 (Bernama) -- Malaysia is ready to begin the e-Commerce initiative and the Infrastructure Fund to assist other Asian nations following its success in mobilising the e-Education through the establishment of the Asia e University (AeU) under the Asian Cooperative Dialogue (ACD).

Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said although Malaysia was not fully developed in e-Commerce, it could still utilise the existing expertise and experience to help the ACD member countries.

He said the government would ask the Ministry of Domestic Trade, Cooperatives and Consumerism to make plans to mobilise e-Commerce, which was one of the three sectors where Malaysia was a prime mover.

"We were a bit slow...after this, we will see the movement (of e-Commerce and Infrastructure Fund)," he said at a media conference with Malaysian journalists after attending the official opening of the inaugural ACD Summit Meeting by the Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah at the Bayan Palace.

Leaders from the 32 member countries of ACD attended the summit meeting.

On the Infrastructure Fund, Muhyiddin said Malaysia had the expertise and wide experience following its involvement in construction and engineering projects such as highways, airports and sea ports.

Commenting further on the AeU, Muhyiddin said that since its establishment in 2007, the cyber university based in Kuala Lumpur had attracted more than 2,100 students from 20 countries.

"From the reports I received, the e-university has a network of cooperation with other universities in Asia. There are various courses offered...it is one of the successful projects sponsored by ACD," he said.

Asked on the obstacles faced by AeU, Muhyiddin, who is also the Education Minister, said although the issue of recognition was still ongoing, there were positive developments in terms of credit transfer and the university's qualification approval.

Muhyiddin said Malaysia also welcomed the announcement by the Emir of Kuwait at the opening of the Summit Meeting to provide a socio-economic development fund of USD300 million which demonstrated Kuwait's determination to assist the Asian countries.

"The Emir of Kuwait also proposed that the ACD looked at the direction of the organisation. The possibility of a more organised format for ACD. When Thailand becomes the host in 2015, there is a possibility that the ACD's position will be stronger," he said.

He also said Malaysia hoped that the Summit Meeting would lead to a new cooperation to tackle global challenges such as the economic crisis and Euro currency and their impact on the developing nations, climatic change and food security.

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