

**Malaysia Gains New Ideas, Forges Closer Ties With Australia**  
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**From Leslean Arshad**

MELBOURNE, Nov 9 (Bernama) -- Malaysia will gain new ideas especially in the field of education besides forging closer bilateral ties following the nine-day working visit to Australia by Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin beginning Saturday.

Muhyiddin, who is also the Education Minister, will have a tight schedule including meeting with Malaysian nationals and students during his visit to Melbourne, in Victoria, and Cold Coast and Brisbane, located in Queensland until Nov 18.

Muhyiddin, who begins his visit to Australia in Melbourne, among others, will deliver a keynote address at the 4th World Chinese Economic Forum (WCEF) organised by the Asian Strategic and Leadership Institute (Asli), the first time it is being held outside Malaysia.

Malaysian High Commissioner to Australia Datuk Salman Ahmad said having the WCEF forum in Melbourne would expand the network opportunity as Australia had many Chinese businessmen.

"It can expand the horizon not only among the Chinese businessmen as others (non-Chinese businessmen) will also be interested," he told Malaysian journalists here Friday in conjunction with Muhyiddin's visit.

Demonstrating Melbourne's commitment to the WCEF forum, a reception and a dinner for the forum will be hosted by Victoria Governor Alex Chernov, which will be attended by Muhyiddin.

Salman said Muhyiddin would also meet with Malaysian students and professionals while in Melbourne.

It is estimated that 40,000 Malaysian nationals are now in Victoria who are involved in various fields including professions such as medicine, accountancy, academics and business while another 8,000 to 9,000 Malaysian students are pursuing higher studies at leading universities such as Monash University and the University of Melbourne.

The opening of the Malaysian Consulate-General's Office in Melbourne demonstrates the visible presence of Malaysian nationals in Victoria, he said.

Salman said Muhyiddin would also have a meeting with the Premier of Victoria, Ted Baillieu and the Melbourne chapter of the Australia-Malaysia Business Council, among the busiest chapter in Australia, while in Melbourne.

On Nov 13, Muhyiddin would be given a briefing on the G.A.T.E.WAYS Brainwaves Club program in the morning in Melbourne before departing for the Gold Coast in the afternoon.

The G.A.T.E.WAYS Brainwaves Club is based on the philosophy that highly able and gifted children have particular needs for stimulation and challenge that match their high level of curiosity and desire to learn.

Salman said Muhyiddin would be briefed on the development of the Petronas Brisbane joint-venture in the LNG Gladstone while in Gold Coast.

Muhyiddin would also have a meeting with the Malaysian scientific diaspora and the Malaysian community in Gold Coast, he said.

He said Muhyiddin would be given a briefing on the Boyston Employment programme, a programme that enables the young people to seek employment in Brisbane.

"We will look at this model to see if the technique could be adopted in Malaysia," he said.

Salman said: "A lot of ideas can be gained (from Australia)."

He said trade relations between Malaysia and Australia was also good amounting to about USD12 billion.

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