

'Expo fosters closer ties between Asean, China'
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NANNING: The ninth China-Asean Expo was launched here yesterday with a promise of new prospects and continued prosperity for participating countries.

Chinese Vice-President Xi Jinping led Asean leaders, including Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, in a simple ribbon-cutting ceremony to mark the launch of the expo at the Nanning International Convention and Exhibition Centre.

This year, Myanmar was picked as the country of honour for the expo.

There will be 3,400 booths showcasing products and services from China and Asean member countries.

Myanmar President Thein Sein, who spoke at the launch, said the expo remains the main vehicle for China-Asean relations since it began in 2004.

He pointed out that trade between China and Asean countries stood at about RM30 billion last year and prospects were brighter now given the close cooperation they have.

He said the theme "Science and Technology Cooperation" for the expo this year was timely as member countries focused on new advancements in trade and industry.

Malaysia will be represented by 136 exhibitors, of which 128 are companies, six are government agencies and two are state agencies.

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