

Muhyiddin Begins France Visit, Eye On Malaysia's Unesco Bid

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From Abdul Muin Majid

PARIS, April 13 (Bernama) -- Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin has arrived in the French capital in efforts to ramp up support for Malaysia's bid to be on the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco) executive board for 2015-2019.

The aircraft carrying Muhyiddin touched down at Paris' Charles De Gaulle airport at about 7 am (1 pm Malaysian time) on Monday and he was welcomed by Malaysian ambassador to France Tan Sri Ismail Omar.

Later today, Muhyiddin will open the Malaysia Cultural Week 2015 at the Place du Palais Royal.

During his three-day working visit, he will also officiate at the opening of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Exhibition at Unesco, which is headquartered here, on Tuesday.

The events are drawn up as part of Malaysia's efforts to lobby for the Unesco executive board membership, an entity comprising 58 countries, each serving a four-year term.

Since joining UNESCO in 1958, Malaysia had sat on the executive board five times, namely from 1978 to 1983, 1987-1991, 1993-1997, 1999-2003 and finally from 2007 to 2011.

The world body comprises 195 countries and a number of associate members.

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