

**Thailand, Australia to Enhance Cooperation in Tackling Daesh Threat**  
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BANGKOK, Jan 22 (Bernama) -- Thailand and Australia are to enhance cooperation to tackle the growing threat posed by the Daesh militant group in the region.

Thai Deputy Prime Minister Gen Prawit Wongsuwan disclosed this Friday after Australian Justice Minister Michael Keenan called on him at the Defence Ministry here. Prawit is also the defence minister.

Asked if there was any proposal to formally discuss the Daesh threat at the regional level, Prawit there was none for the time being.

Prawit and Keenan also discussed other issues, including transnational crime involving drugs.

"We are also concerned about the drugs problem and the Thai government tries to do everything to make things better," said Prawit.

Meanwhile, Prawit's advisor Panitan Wattanayagorn, who was present at the meeting, said Thailand was willing to join Australia in its fight against terrorism.

"Currently, we keep monitoring the terrorism issues and the Deputy Prime Minister has informed Australia's Justice Minister that Thailand is willing to join hands to combat terrorism," he told reporters after the meeting.

Although Bangkok has not encountered problems related to Daesh, the country has raised its surveillance and regularly exchanges information with neighbouring countries, besides having tightened its borders.

He said the country aimed to "keep an eye" on people movement at the border and other activities.

According to Panitan, the two countries also agreed to enhance their already good bilateral cooperation to combat transnational crime, especially related to the drugs problem.

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