

**Malaysia, Costa Rica Agree To Work Closely On Bilateral Consultation Mechanism**  
**Bernama**  
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PUTRAJAYA, March 15 (Bernama) -- The foreign ministers of Malaysia and Costa Rica have agreed to work closely on the proposed establishment of a bilateral consultation mechanism between the two countries' foreign ministries.

Malaysian Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Anifah Aman and Costa Rica's Foreign Affairs and Worship Minister Manuel A. Gonzalez Sanz, who called on the former at Wisma Putra here today, have agreed to work closely on the mechanism to negotiate an agreement on economic, science, technical and cultural cooperation.

Malaysia's Foreign Ministry in a statement released in conjunction with the meeting said that Anifah during their bilateral meeting had expressed Malaysia's commitment to further strengthen bilateral cooperation between the two countries in various areas.

The areas of cooperation include trade, education and tourism as well as exploring new areas in the future, said the statement.

Anifah had also invited Costa Rica to use Malaysia as a gateway to ASEAN with the establishment of the Asean Community, it said.

The meeting was held in conjunction with Gonzalez Sanz's four-day working visit to Malaysia. It was his first visit to Malaysia which ended today.

Anifah and Gonzalez Sanz also discussed on various international and regional issues, and highlighted the strong bonds of friendship and cooperation at international fora.

After the courtesy call, Anifah hosted an official lunch to honour Gonzalez and his delegation at his office here.

During his visit, Gonzalez Sanz also met with International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed, delivered a keynote address at the Global Talk Series at Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, and visited the Malaysian Global Innovation and Creativity Centre (MaGIC) in Cyberjaya.

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