

Zahid Departs For Home after Attending Nuclear Security Summit 2016

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From Hafizah Kamaruddin

WASHINGTON, April 4 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi departed for home on Monday after a week-long working visit to Washington DC since March 29 to attend the fourth and final Nuclear Security Summit (NSS).

Ahmad Zahid and his wife Datin Seri Hamidah Khamis left for Malaysia on a commercial flight at 11.35 am local time (11.35 pm Malaysian time).

Malaysian Ambassador to United States (US) Datuk Dr Awang Adek Hussin and wife Datin Latifah Mohd Yusof were at the airport to send them off.

The two-day NSS kicked off with a working dinner themed "Evaluating the Threat", which was hosted by US President Barack Obama at the White House, on March 31.

At the plenary session of the summit held at Walter E Washington Convention Centre, Ahmad Zahid said, Malaysia had taken various measures to counter terrorism, including by setting up of a nuclear security detection laboratory last February and the counter-messaging centre, which will be operational next month, to fight violent extremism in Malaysia.

During the visit, the deputy prime minister also met with several US senior officials including the National Security Advisor, Susan Elizabeth Rice; Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) director, John Brennan; Deputy Secretary of State, Anthony J Blinken; Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security, Alejandro Mayorkas and Assistant Secretary, Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, Daniel Russel.

Their discussions revolved around bilateral cooperation, transnational crime issues, trafficking in persons and the progress of Malaysia's admission to the US Visa Waiver Programme.

Ahmad Zahid also made time to meet with American University's School of International Service students to share Malaysia experiences on terrorism, extremism and deradicalisation.

He also met with US Captain of Industries and Friends of Malaysia to exchange views on current economic situations and the business opportunities in Malaysia.

Ahmad Zahid in a press briefing on Saturday described his trip as fruitful and hoped more US defence industry players would use Malaysia as a platform for them to venture into the ASEAN and Asian region.

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