

FM: Tajikistan to play vital role as Malaysia's gateway to Central Asia

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PUTRAJAYA, Feb 7 -- Tajikistan shall play a vital role in becoming a trade gateway for Malaysia to Central Asia, said Tajikistan's Foreign Minister Sirojiddin Muhridin.

He said Malaysia, being strategically located in the fast-growing region of Southeast Asia, can become a bridge between Tajikistan and other ASEAN countries.

“We encourage Malaysia to study the possibility of creating a commodity hub in one of the economic zones of Tajikistan, both for exporting its goods to Tajikistan and other Central Asian countries and Afghanistan, as well as for pre-processing and import of products from there to Malaysia,” he told Bernama during an exclusive interview at a leading hotel in Putrajaya, here, today.

He added that Tajikistan is also ready to start a talk at higher levels as well as to invite representatives from related agencies and institutions towards long-term networking in the halal sector.

Sirojiddin believes relations between Tajikistan and Malaysia have the potential for greater expansion in the economic as well as the scientific, technical, cultural and people-to-people spheres.

“According to the information we possess, in 2018 Malaysia imported mineral resources worth US\$3.5 billion, agricultural products worth US\$800 million, and cotton worth of US\$600 million.

“Tajikistan has all these products to meet the need of the Malaysian market. Currently, we can partially meet the needs of Malaysia in mineral resources, agricultural products and cotton,” he said.

Yesterday, Sirojiddin handed over invitation letters from Tajikistan President Emomali Rahmon for Yang di-Pertuan Agong Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah and Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad to visit the country to Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail.

“I also have the honour of delivering an invitation to Dr Mahathir Mohamad to take part in the Second High-Level International Conference on the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development” 2018 – 2028, which is scheduled to be held on June 18 to 20, 2020, in Dushanbe.

“I believe we need to intensify high-level official visits between our countries to achieve the outcomes we expect within our cooperation. My visit to Malaysia is a continuation of the strategy that we pursue,” he said.

Sirojiddin is on a four-day official visit to Malaysia from Wednesday. This is his first official visit to Malaysia since assuming office in 2013.

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