JOINT EFFORTS: The first Asia Cooperation Dialogue targets networks, funds

Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin (centre) at the opening of the first summit of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue in Kuwait yesterday. Bernama pic.

This grouping had been functioning as a ministerial meeting for the past 10 years before it upgraded itself to a full summit involving heads of government this year.

The ACD consists of Asean member nations as well as Japan, China, India, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar, Russia, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan.

Muhyiddin, who is also education minister, said Malaysia would boost the role of AeU by establishing networks with other institutes of higher learning in and out of Asia.

"In a report on e-education, there is mention of the setting up of more networks with universities not only within Asian nations but also with those outside of the ACD grouping.

"This means the scope would be expanded and not limited to ACD member nations because of the various courses offered."

Muhyiddin said the ACD had also set up an Asian credit transfer system, which would benefit the AeU students. On the aspects of e-commerce and infrastructure fund, Muhyiddin said Malaysia hoped to offer its expertise, along with other ACD member nations.

On the summit, Muhyiddin said a fund for socio-economic development among Asian nations had been proposed by the host nation, Kuwait.

Kuwait's Emir, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, contributed US$300 million (RM917 million) to kickstart the fund.
Malaysia’s Aei Initiative Most Successful Under ACD - Kohilan

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 15 (Bernama) -- Malaysia's Asia e University's (Aeu) initiative under the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) has become one of the most successful projects of the 32-member grouping.

Deputy Foreign Minister Senator A. Kohilan Pillay said since it was established in April 2007, the Kuala Lumpur-based Aeu has managed to attract about 2,100 students from 20 countries.

"Most of the students are doing post-graduate programmes. This university concept allows for credit transfer between participating countries," he told Malaysian journalists on the sidelines of the ACD Ministerial Meeting here.

Also present Malaysian Ambassador to Kuwait Datuk Adnan Othman Kohilan said the Aeu was one of the two proposals by Malaysia that was accepted by the ministerial meeting, to be forwarded to the inaugural ACD Summit that will begin here Tuesday.

According to Kohilan, Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin who is scheduled to arrive in the Kuwait capital tonight, leading a Malaysian delegation, would put forward Malaysia’s proposal to further improve and upgrade the flexible multinational university.

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