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M'sia, Indonesia in energy cooperation talks

JAKARTA • Malaysia and Indonesia held talks yesterday in Jakarta on bilateral cooperation, security and supply of energy resources in the future for both countries.

Malaysian ambassador to Indonesia Datuk Seri Zahra Mohamed Hashim said Malaysia, represented by the Energy Commission (EC) and Tenaga Nasional Bhd (TNB), had technical discussions on issues pertaining to energy resources supplies.

Meanwhile, Indonesia was represented by senior officials from the Energy and Mineral Resources Ministry, Indonesian Coal Mining Association and PT Perusahaan Listrik Negara.

He said the discussion was a joint effort between the two countries in developing the energy-related industries in a "win-win" situation and that it served as an eye-opener for both parties to explore prospects in the future.

Mohamed Zahra said matters discussed included coal supply and projects related to the supply of electricity along the Malaysian-Indonesian borders.

"Indonesia is a major coal supplier to Malaysia. This discussion leads to a cooperation to ensure its (coal) continuous supply to meet the high demands due to (the rise of) development projects in the two countries," he told reporters in Jakarta yesterday.

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Meanwhile, EC chairman Datuk Abdul Razak Abdul Majid said so far, Malaysia is still in need of coal as the major source of energy in its electrical power generation.

He said that although efforts were made to diversify the energy resources, including the use of nuclear energy in Malaysia, the government has yet to make a decision because it needs a comprehensive study to see its long-term effects.

Abdul Razak also said the use of coal as a source of energy is by far the best alternative as hydro power has been used to the maximum in Malaysia.

TNB Energy Ventures VP

Datuk Nor Azman Mufti said 90% of electricity generation in Malaysia comes from coal and that Indonesia has supplied about 70% so far.

He said based on the discussion, the Indonesian coal suppliers had assured TNB they would provide long-term continuous supply as Malaysia needs 28 million tonnes of coal per annum in order to supply electricity to the whole country.

The Indonesian Coal Mining Association chairman Pandu J Sjahrir meanwhile said Malaysia was the first country in the region to plan its future supplies and form a strategic partnership based on a spirit of friendship. — *Bernama*