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Russia to support Malaysia's nuclear energy development

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All smiles: Fadillah taking a group photo during a gathering with Malaysian students in Moscow, Russia. — Bernama

MOSCOW: Russia has agreed to continue cooperating with Malaysia to build the country's capacity in nuclear energy development, covering institutional, human capital, technical, commercial and legal aspects, says Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof.

Fadillah, who is also Energy Transition and Water Transformation Minister, said Russia's extensive experience in nuclear energy should be considered as Malaysia looks to enhance its future energy security.

He said one of the main objectives of the trip was to strengthen energy cooperation between the two countries.

In addition to existing cooperation in coal imports, Fadillah said he and Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexey Overchuk also discussed the potential for collaboration in the field of nuclear energy.

"Russia possesses advanced technology in the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

"The country's experience in nuclear energy technology could

support Malaysia's aspirations under the National Energy Transition Roadmap," he said, Bernama reported.

He also held a meeting on Friday with Russian state nuclear firm Rosatom's director-general Alexey Likhachev, with discussions covering technical and operational matters including legal frameworks, technology transfer and workforce training.

According to Fadillah, the meeting opened the door for direct dialogue between Malaysia's technical agencies and Rosatom to assess potential areas of nuclear cooperation such as the strengthening and modernisation of the power grid, which would in turn have a positive impact on Asean Power Grid cooperation.

He said the Cabinet had, in principle, approved the consideration of nuclear energy as part of Malaysia's future energy mix.

"This is to address the current limitations in baseload energy supply. We are trying to reduce our dependence on coal and gas, but supply remains a challenge.

"In addition, we are facing con-

straints in hydroelectric generation due to limited water resources. Globally, many now see nuclear power as an option that must be considered," he added.

Fadillah stressed that the government must first undertake a thorough study of nuclear technology, including public engagement.

"Public support is critical. This process must involve various ministries, agencies and non-government organisations to provide clear explanations.

"It can only proceed once an international agreement is signed and accepted by the majority of the public. This is the first step in that direction," he said.

Fadillah, who concluded his four-day working visit to Russia yesterday, also visited Uzbekistan from June 21 to 24.

The Deputy Prime Minister's visit to Russia followed Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's official visit to the country from May 13 to 16, aimed at enhancing and exploring new areas of cooperation between Malaysia and Russia.