

KHAIRY LAUDS MALAYSIA-S'PORE TIES

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Health minister conveys govt's gratitude for republic's cooperation during pandemic

SINGAPORE

THE cordial relationship and cooperation between Malaysia and Singapore in dealing with Covid-19 have made the two countries an epidemiological region, which saw the opening of the border between the two nations after more than two years of closure, Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin said.

He said the matter was shared with Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong when he paid a courtesy call on Lee at the Presidential Palace during his four-day official working visit here.

Khairy was in the city-state

from May 31 to June 3 as Lee Kuan Yew's seventh exchange fellow from Malaysia.

"At the meeting, Prime Minister Lee and I shared our experiences in facing the challenges of the Delta and Omicron waves during the Covid-19 pandemic," he said on his Facebook page.

He said he also conveyed the gratitude and appreciation of the Malaysian government, and the Health Ministry in particular, to Lee and the Singaporean government, notably the republic's Health Ministry, for their excellent commitment and cooperation during the pandemic.

"In addition, we also exchanged views on how to live a

safe life following the Covid-19 pandemic, the role of technology in further strengthening the delivery of the national health system, and also the importance of understanding a good behavioural science approach in shaping a responsible society."

Khairy also expressed his desire to boost the bilateral cooperation with Singapore and "hope that both countries and their people get the best benefits".

During his visit to the republic, Khairy also met Singaporean Deputy Prime Minister and Coordinating Minister for Economic Policies Heng Swee Keat, Parliamentary Speaker Tan Chuan-Jin, Senior Minister and

Coordinating Minister for National Security Teo Chee Hean, as well as Senior Minister and Coordinating Minister for Social Policies Tharman Shanmugaratnam.



Khairy Jamaluddin

He also met Foreign Minister Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, Finance Minister Lawrence Wong, his counterpart, Ong Ye Kung, and Communications and Information Minister Josephine Teo.

In conjunction with the visit, Khairy also spoke at the Asia Tech x Singapore Summit and at the National University of Singapore's Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health.

Established in 1991, the Lee

Kuan Yew Exchange Fellowship invites outstanding individuals for high-level visits to Singapore.

The fellows are chosen on the basis of their track records and extraordinary potential to contribute to the development of their nations and to bilateral relations with Singapore.

"Such exchanges help to foster dialogue and collaboration, and deepen our bilateral cooperation," said the ministry.

Lee Tzu Yang, chairman of the Lee Kuan Yew Exchange Fellowship, will host a welcome dinner for Khairy.

Khairy is the 71st Lee Kuan Yew exchange fellow.

Present during the courtesy call were the Malaysian High Commissioner to Singapore Datuk Dr Azfar Mohamad Mustafar and officers from the Malaysian Health Ministry. **Bernama**