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## **Malaysia committed to complete disarmament**

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia has given its commitment to assisting the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in conducting training in the region.

Foreign Affairs Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said Malaysia had many institutions which regularly conduct regional training in various fields.

These included the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR), the South East Asia Regional Centre for Counter Terrorism (SEARCCT), the Armed Forces Peace Keeping Centre, Armed Forces Staff College and the Royal Malaysian Customs.

"After all, this is also in our country's interest.

"Next year, the Customs Academy will conduct a course on Import and Export of Scheduled Chemicals and we welcome regional participants for the course," he said in his speech at the Regional Meeting for Asean States Parties on Assistance and Protection Against Chemical Weapons held in a hotel here on Monday.

The OPCW is an international agency, based in The Hague, Netherlands, whose mission is to eliminate chemical weapons and to verify the destruction of declared chemical weapons stockpiles.

He added that as a state party to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), Malaysia has fulfilled her obligations in accepting international inspections.

"We have had several international inspectors to our plant sites and from the feedback we received, the inspection reports have been positive.

"Malaysia is committed towards complete disarmament whether in nuclear, biological, chemical and radiological weapons," he said.

Malaysia signed the CWC in January 1993, and ratified it in April 2000. The Chemical Weapons Convention Act 2005 came into force in September last year, and the National Authority for CWC was established as the same time.