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Ban Ki-moon's first visit to Malaysia

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Ban Ki-moon arrived at the Kompleks Bunga Raya, Kuala Lumpur International Airport on March 21, 2012 for his two-day official visit to Malaysia. BERNAMA

KUALA LUMPUR (March 21, 2012): United Nations (UN) secretary-general Ban Ki-moon is on a two-day official visit to Malaysia, beginning today, his first since taking office on Jan 1, 2007.

The Foreign Ministry said he would be accompanied by his wife, Ban Soo-taek, and a delegation comprising UN senior officials and staff.

In a statement, the ministry said that Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Anifah Aman would host a welcoming dinner in honour of the top UN diplomat tonight.

Tomorrow, Ban is scheduled to call on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak, followed by a luncheon hosted by the Malaysian leader and his wife, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, at Seri Perdana in Putrajaya.

The UN secretary-general's itinerary in Malaysia includes a visit to the Malaysian Peacekeeping Training Centre (MPTC) in Port Dickson, Negeri Sembilan.

Established in 1996, MPTC provides training on theoretical and practical peacekeeping-related matters to Malaysian and international military, police and civilian personnel, including cooperation programmes with the UN and several countries such as Australia, Japan and the United States.

South Korean Ban is scheduled to deliver a special address entitled 'Malaysia and the United Nations in a Changing World' at the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations in Kuala Lumpur, the statement said.

The secretary-general is also scheduled to attend a programme at the Institute of Respiratory Medicine in the Malaysian capital in conjunction with World TB Day.

Ban was unanimously re-elected by the UN General Assembly last year to serve as secretary-general of the world body until Dec 31, 2016.

Meanwhile, Mrs Ban will visit the Permata Childcare Centre in Malaysia's administrative capital, Putrajaya, where she will be briefed on early childhood education and care programme conducted at the facility, the Foreign Ministry said. -

- *Bernama*