HANOI, Jan 9 (Bernama) -- Four top Malaysian students are participating in the 11th Hitachi Young Leader Initiative (HYLI) programme to share ideas and plans on current regional issues with their counterparts from another six nations.

The four are Heng Jing Yi from Universiti Malaya, Choo Hong Ning from Universiti Putra Malaysia, Ong Kit Wee from Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia and Donald Stephen from Universiti Malaysia Sarawak.

Organised by Hitachi, the five-day event began here today with the theme "New Stage for Asia - An Asian Perspective on Managing Sustainable Development and Economic Integration".

Hitachi Ltd Chairman Takashi Kawamura said: "We are witnessing a fast growing Asia despite the slow growth rate of other regions, especially of developed countries in Europe and America. "This shows that Asia now has a bigger voice in the global economy and will take a leading role in the near future."

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Kawamura said the event was a great platform to share and give creative ideas.

"It can enhance regional partnerships and collaborations to develop strong economies and sustainable communities thereby raising the position of Asia in the international arena," he said.

Present was Vietnam Deputy Prime Minister Hoang Trung Hai.

The Hanoi event involves 28 students from the Philippines, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam and Japan.

Since its inauguration in Singapore in 1996, the HYLI has been successful in bringing the best and brightest students in Asia together.

Extracted from bernama.