

# Do what the Japanese do, says Dr. Mahathir

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KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. — Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad today called on Malaysians to emulate Japanese work ethics and learn from their technology.

The Prime Minister said Japan was a good example for Malaysia to emulate as it had already reached the developed stage and was still developing vigorously.

He said the West was no longer a suitable model as its people had lost their drive.

"They still want the good life but are not prepared to face the realities of a world market, which they can no longer dominate.

"Consequently, if we emulate

them we will land ourselves in the quagmire they are in, without ever passing through the golden period that they went through," he said at the opening of the Fifth Annual Conference of the Malaysia-Japan Economic Association (Majeca) and its sister body, Japan-Malaysia Economic Association (Jameca) here.

## Assistance

Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir hoped Japan would provide Malaysians with the training opportunities available in its business and industrial establishments.

The Prime Minister reiterated that it was not just skills that Malaysia was after, but more important, the correct attitude towards work, including a sense of belonging, which bred loyalty.

Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir said the Government had already set up a committee to select students to be sent to Japan and the first batch was now undergoing a six-month intensive Japanese language course at the Mara Institute of Technology.

"I am sure that if Japan was to open the doors of its training institutions to Malaysian students and assist us in the training of our workforce, we would together be laying the foundation for an enduring and meaningful co-operation between our two countries.

## Disaster

"In doing so, we would be inculcating in our leaders of tomorrow a better understanding and appreciation of the mode of conduct, culture and thought processes of the Japanese and Malaysian people, thereby creating a positive climate for future business activities and various forms of co-operation," he added.

On the establishment of Malaysian *sogoshoshas*, the Prime Minister said a Japanese *sogoshosha* was unique and it would be a disaster for anyone to imitate it

wholesale. \*

He said Malaysian *sogoshoshas* were intended to form a vital link between production and investment in Malaysia on the one hand and the world market, international capital and knowhow on the other.

He welcomed the new development adding that it was high time that Malaysian businessmen went international and ventured to where the markets were, instead of waiting for the markets to come to them.

In a message read out at the conference, Japanese Prime Minister Zenko Suzuki said understanding and co-operation between Malaysian and Japanese businessmen was a must for the smooth development of bilateral ties between the two countries.

Mr Suzuki noted that Malaysia made spectacular strides in economic development during the 10 years of the New Economic Policy and hoped that despite the severe global economic conditions the country would be able to achieve the policy's goals.