

# Japan willing to train our workers

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KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. —  
Japanese companies have responded favourably to Malaysia's request for training facilities for its work force, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

Leaders of 15 Japanese companies whom he met during his visit to the country had expressed willingness to help train Malaysians.

"Our embassy in Japan has also got a big reception from companies to which we sent letters requesting training facilities," he said on his return today.

He said offers from the Japanese companies covered all fields including management, production, financing and banking.

"They are attracted to our Look East policy," he said.

The Prime Minister, looking fresh after a vacation at the Japanese mountain resort of Niko, said this was a good opportunity for Malaysia, which now only has assembly technology, to move to the design technology stage.

"They (the Japanese) are will-

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ing to teach us and if we are willing to learn, we can develop our own industry to a level where we can design machinery, etc."

He said Malaysians sent there should make it a point to mix with the Japanese and study their work ethic to take maximum advantage of their training stints there.

A first batch of 120 Malaysians will go to Japan shortly for training in Japanese companies.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said more Japanese companies are now interested to invest in Malaysia.

"Previously, there was only a certain number of companies interested but now nearly all big Japanese companies are looking forward to investing in this country," he said.

## Problems

Those which have shown interest cover a wide range including engineering and heavy industries.

On the 15 companies' leaders whom he met, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said some of them already have investments in Malaysia.

"Some have a few problems that need to be solved. I will be bringing this up with Datuk Musa (Hitam)."

At the end of the Press conference, the Prime Minister, with a bemused look, thanked the reporters with the greeting "Arigato Gozaimas" and a slight bow.