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KUALA LUMPUR, JUNE 20 (BERNAMA) -- MALAYSIA FEELS THAT INFORMAL BILATERAL DIALOGUES AND FORA BETWEEN NON-GOVERNMENTAL INSTITUTIONS IN THIS COUNTRY AND THOSE IN THE OTHER NATIONS CAN PREVENT PROBLEMS FROM BECOMING ISSUES.

PRIME MINISTER, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID NOT ONLY WOULD THESE INFORMAL FORA HELP TO DEFUSE PROBLEMS BUT OPPORTUNITIES FOR WORKING TOGETHER COULD ALSO BE FULLY DISSECTED BEFORE THEY WERE TAKEN AT THE FORMAL LEVEL.

IN HIS MESSAGE TO THE 2ND JAPAN-MALAYSIA COLLOQUIUM IN TOKYO, JAPAN YESTERDAY, HE SAID SUCH DIALOGUES WOULD GIVE PARTICIPANTS THE OPPORTUNITY FOR FULL CANDOUR WITHOUT THE ENCUMBERANCE AND THE DANGER OF COMMITTING GOVERNMENTS AND NATIONS.

THE COLLOQUIUM WAS ORGANISED BY THE ASSOCIATION FOR PROMOTION OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION (APIC) IN COLLABORATION WITH MALAYSIA'S INSTITUTE OF STRATEGIC AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES (ISIS).

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT ALTHOUGH IN THE RELATIONS BETWEEN NATIONS, THE MAIN CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION MUST BE BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS, IT WAS ALSO IMPORTANT FOR COMMUNICATION AND DISCUSSION TO BE HELD AT INFORMAL LEVEL. -- MORE
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MALAYSIA, HE SAID, HAD ACTED TO ESTABLISH A SYSTEM OF INFORMAL BILATERAL DIALOGUES WITH MANY COUNTRIES INCLUDING JAPAN, USA, CHINA, INDIA, SOVIET UNION, FRANCE, WEST GERMANY, VIETNAM, BANGLADESH, INDONESIA, THAILAND, SINGAPORE, THE PHILIPPINES AND BRUNEI.

THE FIRST SUCH COLLOQUIUM WAS HELD WITH JAPAN IN 1984.

ON THE PRESENT COLLOQUIUM, THE PRIME MINISTER HOPED ITS DELIBERATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS WOULD CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS BETTER UNDERSTANDING AND TO THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

ON THE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MALAYSIA AND JAPAN, HE SAID THIS COUNTRY HAD LEARNED MUCH FROM THE EXPERIENCE OF JAPAN AND THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF ITS PEOPLE.

STRESSING THAT MALAYSIA VALUED ITS COMPREHENSIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH JAPAN, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID MALAYSIA HAD MORE TO LEARN FROM THE JAPANESE EXPERIENCE.

AMONG MALAYSIA'S PARTICIPANTS AT THE TWO-DAY COLLOQUIUM WHICH ENDED TODAY WERE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE ECONOMIC PLANNING UNIT TAN SRI RADIN SOENARNO, DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF ISIS DR NOORDIN SOPIEE, EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN OF INNOVEST DATUK DR MOKHZANI RAHIM AND THE POLITICAL SECRETARY TO THE PRIMEMINISTER, ENCIK MOHAMED NOOR AZAM.

-- BERNAMA
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