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Mahathir-Japan

(EMBARGO: For use after 10 pm today)

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KUALA LUMPUR, April 24 (Bernama) -- Relations between Malaysia and Japan are not confined to the political and economic sectors but have encompassed the cultural aspect as well, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said tonight.

He said that as a result of the cooperation in the political and economic fields, the people of Malaysia and Japan had the opportunity to exchange views and get to know each other from the aspect of their respective customs and cultures.

+This resulted from the interaction with Japanese families living in this country and Malaysians going for further studies in Japan,+ he said when launching the +Close-up of Japan+ cultural carnival organised by the Mitsui Group, here.

+Close-up of Japan+ is a Japanese cultural carnival held annually in major cities in the United States and Britain since 1983. This is the second time the carnival is held in Asia.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said that since the government launched the +Look East+ policy, Japanese culture and the Japanese way of life were no longer foreign in this country. -- more

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Mahathir-Japan 2 Kuala Lumpur (Embargo)

The prime minister said Malaysian students returning from Japan could not only speak Japanese but got employed in Japanese companies in this country.

The presence of a large number of Japanese in this country to manage factories gave Malaysian workers the opportunity to learn the Japanese methods of management and their high technology, he added.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir praised Japan as a developed country which did not neglect its culture that had existed for thousands of years, so much so that the international community is interested in wanting to know of that culture.

He also said that Japan and Malaysia often arranged for reciprocal visits of cultural groups to popularise their cultures.

He said the +Close-up of Japan+ cultural carnival would bring Japanese culture closer to the people of Malaysia and contribute towards enhancing understanding between the peoples of both countries and strengthen the existing cordial relationship. -- Bernama

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