

# Locals can learn from Japanese managers here: PM

By KHAIDIR ABD MAJID

THE presence of the Japanese community in Malaysia to manage factories set up by investors from Japan provides an opportunity for Malaysian workers to learn Japanese management style and high technology.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said in Kuala Lumpur last night their presence also means that Malaysians have the opportunity to interact with Japanese families living in the

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only for the second time in an Asian city.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said although Japan is known as a country which is developed and has achieved successes in the economic, science and high technology fields, the Japanese still hold on to their culture.

In line with Japan's position as a big power after the Second World War, the international community is beginning to be fa-

"Through this, the Malaysian and Japanese communities have the opportunity to exchange views and get to know each other's culture more closely as well as learn from each other," he said when launching "Close-up of Japan", a Japanese cultural festival sponsored by the Mitsui Group.

The festival, an annual affair that has been staged in well-known cities in the US and Britain since 1983, is being organised

miliar with Japanese culture.

Now, he said, Japanese restaurants, complexes and hotels can be found worldwide. Japanese tourists are found all over the world due to the high purchasing power of the yen.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said since the Government introduced the Look East Policy, Japanese culture and values are no longer alien to Malaysians. "Many of our students have obtained higher

education and training in Japan. Upon their return, they can converse in Japanese and work in Japanese companies that have been set up in the country," he added.

He hopes the "Close-up of Japan" festival will bring Japanese culture closer to Malaysians and enhance understanding between the Japanese and the Malaysian people as well as strengthen existing good relations between the two countries.