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MALAYSIA WILL SELL TECHNOLOGY TO JAPAN BY YEAR 2000

SHAH ALAM, Aug 9 (Bernama) -- Malaysia, with Japan's help in research and development, will sell technology to that country by the year 2000, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

An added achievement was that the new technology would be developed by Malaysian engineers, thus boosting the country's march towards industrialisation, he told reporters after officially opening Matsushita Air-Conditioning Corp Sdn Bhd, Matsushita Compressor and Motor Sdn Bhd and laying the foundation stone of Matsushita Air-Conditioning R and D Centre here.

He commended the Matsushita group of companies for having invested \$90 million in the research centre here, which when completed next year, aims to invent or design new air-conditioners locally in the future.

Thereafter, the Japanese company aims to export the new designs and inventions to its principals in Japan as a result of which, the Japanese principal would pay royalties to the Malaysian concern.

This would be an achievement indeed for Malaysia as Matsushita Air-Conditioning Corp was currently paying royalties to Matsushita Research of Japan, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir added.

He said the R and D centre to be built by Matsushita was ample proof that Japan was serious in transferring its technology to Malaysia despite claims to the contrary.

For example, he said that without Japanese technology, Malaysia would not have been able to manufacture the Proton Saga, adding other countries were not able or did not want to do so.

He felt that other foreign companies should put more emphasis on R and D, which in time to come, would enable Malaysians to be self-reliant in technological development and allow Malaysia to compete on an equal footing with other industrialised nations. -- Bernama