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JAPANESE SHOW GREATER INTEREST IN EAEC, SAYS MAHATHIR

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KURLA LUMPUR, Oct 21 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad returned today from a visit to Japan and said Japanese businessmen and officials were beginning to 'show greater interest in the 'proposed East Asia Economic Caucus (EAEC).

He said this was an encouraging development because at one time 'they had shown disinterest in the matter.

+It looks like Japanese businessmen and officials want to know more about the EAEC. This i's good, + he told a news conference at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Subang.

Dr Mahathir, who was accompanied by his wife Datuk Seri Datin Paduka Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, was greeted by Information Minister Datuk Mohamed Rahmat, Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik, National Unity and Social Development Minister Datuk Napsiah Omar and Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Ahmad Sarji Abdul Hamid.

The prime minister said there was no specific programme for him during his visit to Japan. He delivered a speech 'to businessmen and diplomats on Malaysia 's views on various international matters,, including the EAEC.

He also said that a large business newspaper, Nihon Keizai Shimbun, interviewed him during the four-day unof f icial visit, and he was questioned at length on the EAEC. -- Bernama

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