

CNS7411

U GE 18-08 00112 EB021

aae

MAHATHIR HAPPY OVER ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION WITH JAPAN AND TAIWAN

bm

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 18 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today he is happy with Malaysia's economic co-operation with Taiwan and Japan though there has been a marked decrease in investment from the two industrial economies.

+The decrease in investment is because of their own economic problems and has nothing to do with our economic co-operation with Japan and Taiwan,+ he told reporters after opening the Second Chinese Economic Congress here.

+I am satisfied with the economic co-operation which Malaysia has with Japan and Taiwan,+ he said. -- more

▼18/08/13-22MST

CNS7419

U GE 18-08 00177 EB022

aae

Mahathir - happy 2 Kuala Lumpur

The decrease in the rate of investment from Taiwan to Malaysia was because of attractive investment offers from China, Dr Mahathir said.

He denied claims that Taiwan investors were no longer interested in investing in Malaysia because investment conditions were frequently changed and were not consistent.

Such claims did not reflect the general opinion but only that of individuals, he said.

+In Japan too there is similar opinion opposed to Malaysia's investment conditions but that is the opinion of individuals and we are not concerned over such opinion,+ he said.

On aid for Bosnia-Herzegovina, Dr Mahathir said Muslim countries should give aid to those who were in need.

Asked to comment on reports that Serbia's atrocities against Bosnian Muslims were being directed by European countries to destroy the rise of Islam in Europe, the Prime Minister said: +I only know about this matter through newspapers and I am not sure whether they are true or not.+ -- more

▼18/08/13-36MST

CNS7423

U GE 18-08 00124 EB023

aae

Mahathir - happy 3 (last) Kuala Lumpur

MCA President Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik told newsmen that the two-day economic congress marked the beginning for even closer economic co-operation among the Chinese, Malay and other Bumiputera communities.

This co-operation would lead to the creation of a strong Malaysian business community, he said.

The World Bank and other international bodies now recognised that Malaysia had skilled business people on par with those of developed countries, he said.

+What is important is that we Chinese and Malays should have greater confidence in ourselves and make new business ventures overseas and in this respect we have a bright future,+ Dr Ling said. -- Bernama

▼18/08/13-53MST