

Japanese Premier's visit a success, says Dr M

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KUALA LUMPUR: Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has described Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's three-day visit to Malaysia as very successful.

The visit had allowed Malaysia and Japan to

discuss bilateral problems, he said after saying farewell to Miyazawa at the Kuala Lumpur Hilton.

Malaysia was also able to inform Japan of its requirements, including loans and infrastructural development, he added.

Miyazawa, who is on a tour of four Asean countries, left for Bangkok yesterday. His last stop

will be Brunei.

He said the East Asian Economic Caucus was not discussed during their bilateral talks because "we do not want to embarrass our guest."

"We want everybody, not just Japan, to support the EAEC proposal," he said in response to whether Malaysia would continue to seek Japan's support

for the proposal.

On Thursday, Dr Mahathir said Japan would be able to represent East Asian countries more forcefully if they met before it attended the Group of Seven summit.

He said it would be better if a meeting of East Asian countries was held to identify problems and take a common stand.

At Subang airport, Miyazawa was seen off by Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

On his way to the airport, Miyazawa visited the RM40 million new campus of the Japanese School of Kuala Lumpur which was under construction. He planted a *cempaka* tree to mark the occasion.