

# ***PM holds talks with Japanese corporate leaders***

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By ANTHONY TAN

LANGKAWI: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday held a three-hour discussion with two Japanese corporate leaders and a Japanese professor of commerce to exchange views on trade and economics between Malaysia and Japan.

Dr Mahathir's senior principal private secretary Datuk Abdul Aziz Ismail said the Japanese were Mitsui Corporation chairman K. Ejiri, Industrial Bank of Japan's president Y. Kurosawa and professor I. Nakatani from Tokyo's Hitotsubashi University of Commerce.

Abdul Aziz said Dr Mahathir was able to get opinions of a businessman, a banker and a professor.

He added that the Prime Minister held such discussions with corporate leaders from Japan and other countries from time to time.

"These discussions are held to get input to assist the government in formulating new programmes," he said, adding that the discussions were usually held in private and not

highlighted in the press.

Abdul Aziz said the two-day private visit by Dr Mahathir was also aimed at showing the Japanese the tourism potential of Langkawi.

"The Japanese were shown several new hotels here and also visited the crocodile farm," he said.

He said the personal interest shown by Dr Mahathir in bringing the Japanese delegation personally in his private jet showed the Prime Minister's interest in promoting Langkawi.

Dr Mahathir was accompanied by Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah.