

PM: We'll find ways to counter US stance on EAEC

By Manan Osman

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. — Malaysia will find ways to overcome the United States' reported opposition to the East Asia Economic Caucus! Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said he had received information that the US had informed Japan of its opposition to the EAEC which was proposed by Malaysia.

He was commenting on a foreign news agency report that the US had informed Japan that it had rejected the caucus.

Asked whether Malaysia would make any effort to convince Japan, Dr Mahathir said, "we will try and its up to them (to decide)."

A Kyodo News Agency report, quoting Asean and Japanese sources, stated that the US had formally informed Japan that it had rejected Asean plans for the caucus.

The report said the US Embassy in Tokyo conveyed the US opposition to the Japanese Government on June 7, saying that the caucus would have a negative effect on the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation.

Dr Mahathir was speaking to reporters after witnessing the signing of a joint venture agreement between Pembinaan Jayabumi (S) Sdn Bhd, a company which specialises in wastewater treatment, and a Thai company P.P. Center Co. Ltd. Thailand, at the Seri Mklayu Restaurant here.

Pembinaan Jayabumi also signed an agreement with Hormozgan Province Municipalities Corporation of Iran for transfer of technology and development of wastewater treatment system in Iran.

Asked to comment on the

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I have already explained to MCA, says PM

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MCA's call that equity regulation in joint ventures should reflect the situation and not be based on a quota. Dr Mahathir said he respected the MCA's views but they should also respect the views of others.

Dr Mahathir said he had explained this to the MCA Youth representatives who came to meet him yesterday. He did not elaborate on the meeting.

Yesterday, 51 MCA Youth central working committee members led by its chief Datuk Chan Kong Choy called on the Prime Minister to present a memorandum and hold discussions on several issues.

Chan, who is Deputy Minister of Culture, Arts and Tourism, told reporters today that the movement had made several proposals to the Government in efforts to ensure the success of joint ventures between the Chinese and Malays.

Asked whether the time was appropriate for the MCA to raise the issue, Dr Mahathir said it was not a problem.

"In politics, sometimes one needs to make one's own effort. It's okay. It's not a problem. We are not fighting ... Just discussing," he said.