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JACTIM FOUNDATION TO PROMOTE CULTURE AND ARTS

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 14 (Bernama) -- The Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Malaysia (JACTIM) Foundation will raise RM600,000 a year to promote educational, cultural and art activities among Malaysians.

"Jactim was established in 1983 to develop Malaysia-Japan economic relations but the same cannot be said for culture and arts," Jactim chairman, Tan Sri Kazumasa Suzuki said in his address during the launching of Jactim Foundation by Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad here today.

He said the Foundation was established in November 1994 and its main objective was to receive donations from all members of Jactim and to administer the donations to non-profit making organisations in order to promote Malaysian culture and arts.

Out of the RM600,000 to be raised annually, 70 percent will be reserved for operating expenditure of the following year with the balance to be accumulated yearly. The Foundation targeted to accumulate RM6 million by the year 2020.

For this year, Jactim Foundation extended financial support of RM98,000 for the Japanese Studies Programme in University Malaya, RM180,000 to the National Symphony Orchestra of Malaysia and RM125,000 for the existing tree planting programme called "Green Donation".

To promote awareness of global environment protection, Suzuki said the Green Donation has identified 27 schools to work with, in which 3,000 trees will be planted.

He said the Foundation would also study the possibility of planting trees throughout Malaysia, not only in schools, but also other at public places. -- BERNAMA

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