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MTJ DEVELOPMENT PLANS TO DEVELOP RESORT

KUALA LUMPUR, July 22 (Bernama) -- MTJ Development Sdn Bhd, the manager of the Nikko Hotels International chain, plans to develop a beach-front resort, preferably in Johor, because of its strategic location between Singapore and Kuala Lumpur.

Speaking to reporters after the official opening of the Nikko Hotel here, MTJ president Toshio Koga said, however, the plan had yet to be finalised.

The resort was envisaged in answer to the call made by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for more Japanese tourists to visit Malaysia and to set up hotels specially to cater for them.

MTJ is a joint venture company between Japan-based Toyo Real Estate Co. Ltd and Japan Airlines Co Ltd (JAL).

Meanwhile, Hotel Nikko Kuala Lumpur deputy general manager Tsuguo Isome said its parent company JAL will increase its flights from Japan to 14 weekly from the existing 10, partly to promote more destinations in Malaysia.

"Malaysia is only known among the Japanese recently because tourism promotion took a long time and Japan is planning a big tourism promotion for Malaysia next year," he said.

Currently JAL flies three times a week to Osaka and operates a daily flight to Tokyo. Come Aug 1, 1996, it will operate six times a week except on Saturday to Osaka and one more flight to the same destination commencing November 1, 1996 daily.

However, he added, the increase was subject to the government's approval.

Currently, he said the hotel occupancy rate stood at 42 percent and hoped to increase to 56 percent in a few years' time. -- BERNAMA

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