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Mahathir - visit

DR MAHATHIR IN TOKYO FOR WORKING VISIT

By: Fisol Jaafar

TOKYO, Nov 27 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is scheduled to arrive here tonight for a stop-over cum working visit on route home after attending the fifth Apec leaders' summit in Vancouver.

Dr Mahathir and wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Mohamed Ali are scheduled to arrive here at 9 pm local time (7pm Kuala Lumpur), said Malaysia's ambassador to Japan Tan Sri Mohamed Khatib Abdul Hamid.

A tight itinerary awaits the prime minister here starting with two hours slotted for interviews with Japan's leading newspaper, the Nihon Keizai Shimbun and Tokyo's Channel 12 television station.

Khatib, who briefed Malaysian journalists covering Dr Mahathir's visit, said the interview would cover, among other things, Malaysia's handling of her currency and share market problems, national economic programmes and Dr Mahathir's leadership of Umno.

Dr Mahathir is Umno president.

The highlights of Dr Mahathir's visit this time around is tomorrow's closed-door meeting with 38 key Japanese industrialists.

Khatib said they include presidents and chief executive officers of Mitsui, Mitsubishi, Toyota, Matsushita, NTT, Daiwa Bank, Yamaichi Research Institute and Kobe Steel.

Dr Mahathir would exchange views with them on regional economic and financial issues in particular.

Prior to his dialogue with the industrialists, the prime minister is scheduled to witness the signing of a joint venture agreement between Malaysia's Usra Tampi Sdn Bhd, Premier Choice Sdn Bhd and Japan's Metro Denso Co Ltd for the manufacture of automotive and electronic components.

Tomorrow morning Dr Mahathir will meet five members of the "Wisemen Club", made up of Japan's top corporate leaders.

It will be Dr Mahathir's fifth meeting with the club members.

Khatib said Dr Mahathir's final function during this working visit is receiving Japan's former vice minister for international finance Toyoo Goyhten, who is now president of the Financial Affairs Institute.

Dr Mahathir's departure for Kuala Lumpur on Saturday is scheduled for 8.30 am (6.30 am Kuala Lumpur). -- BERNAMA

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