

17/12/1997

(Japan will continue to ... )

JAPAN will continue to play a role in helping countries in the region affected by the currency crisis but it would not lead in the "flying geese" concept, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday.

"Japan will not be the head goose (leading the other geese). It expressed its desire that every country in the region is equal.

"It is obviously the most prosperous country (in the region). It has the technologies and can provide training to us. So, it can continue to play a role," he said at a press conference in Kuala Lumpur yesterday after the Asean Plus One meetings with China, Japan and South Korea.

Referring to the Asean-Japan meeting, Dr Mahathir said Asean also requested that Japan make a special effort to get the International Monetary Fund to expedite the study on currency trade to check the slide in the region's currencies.

(END)