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MAHATHIR RESUMES DUTIES TOMORROW AFTER TWO MONTHS' LEAVE

By: Zainoor Sulaiman

OKAYAMA, JAPAN, July 22 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad left here today ending his two-month "working holiday" which took him to several countries in Europe, West Asia and South America, among others.

While on "leave", he attended the D-8 Summit of Islamic countries in Istanbul, made first official visit to Lebanon and flew to Hungary on a working visit.

Speaking to Malaysian journalists covering his seven-day holiday-cum-working visit to Japan, the Prime Minister said he would resume work tomorrow.

Replying to a question, he said his first task was to look at cabinet papers for Wednesday's weekly cabinet meeting.

While in Japan, Dr Mahathir visited Kobe, Toyama and Okayama prefectures touring food chains, a motorcar plant, hill railway project and a high-tech pharmaceutical laboratory producing Interferon (IFN), a bioactive substance used for treatment of cancer and viral diseases.

He also held talks with local political and business leaders to promote greater direct business and cultural ties between Malaysia and the Japanese prefectures. -- Bernama

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