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PM: US participation in MSC not undermining Look-East policy

Azmi M. Anshar in Tokyo

DATUK Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Malaysia's invitation to American companies to participate in the Multimedia Super Corridor was not aimed at undermining the country's Look-East Policy.

The Prime Minister said the invitation would not contradict the policy.

"We cannot push aside Japan because there are still many things that we can learn from you," he said.

Dr Mahathir said this at a Press conference dominated by Japanese journalists.

He was asked to comment on various issues ranging from Malaysia's foreign policy, the New Economic Policy and the MSC.

He was also asked to share his views on how Japan should play its international role.

The Prime Minister's opinions were also sought on Malaysia's relation with Singapore, the country's stand on Indonesia's dealings in East Timor, Japan's position in G-7, Japan's war time record and the Look-East Policy.

Expanding on the invitation to American companies to work in the MSC, Dr Mahathir said cooperating with the West does not mean stopping further cooperation with the East.

On Japan's proposal to hold a regular Japan-Asean Summit, Dr Mahathir reiterated Malaysia's support for this.

"It is important that Japan convey our views to the G7," he said.

Dr Mahathir also said the East Timor issue was an internal matter that needed to be settled by Indonesia.

"We have no plans to offer ourselves as a mediator," he said.

He also repeated his call to Japan to stop apologising for its war atrocities and get on with the present and future.

"Germany has admitted its war atrocities and could now get along," he said, "so it is time Japan does the same."

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