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JAPANESE FM TO ARRIVE TODAY FOR THREE-DAY VISIT

KUALA LUMPUR, May 2 (Bernama) -- Japanese Foreign Minister Keizo Obuchi is scheduled to arrive here tonight on the second stop of a five-day visit to Southeast Asian countries.

Obuchi is flying in from Bangkok for his first visit to Malaysia since assuming the post last September.

According to a Foreign Ministry statement, Obuchi will hold discussions with his Malaysian counterpart Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

He is also expected to meet Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

Obuchi is accompanied by a 26-member delegation comprising officials from the foreign affairs, trade, agriculture, forestry and fisheries and finance ministries. He leaves for Singapore on Wednesday.

The statement says Obuchi's visit underscores the importance of Malaysia-Japan relations and will further strengthen the excellent cooperation between the two countries.

-- BERNAMA

WNZ JK