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Kamil-France

MALAYSIA,FRANCE AND JAPAN INITIATE AID FOR AFRICA

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 27 (Bernama) -- Malaysia, France and Japan are embarking on a diplomatic effort to help the economies of the less developing African countries, said special envoy of the Prime Minister Tan Sri Ahmad Kamil Jaafar.

The initiative was discussed by French President Jacques Chirac with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad during Chirac's visit to Langkawi last November, he said.

Dr Mahathir had also talked to Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto on the matter, Ahmad Kamil said.

"I can't comment more on that. We are still working on it," he told reporters after receiving the French "Ordre National du Merite" (National Order of Merit) from the French ambassador Eduoard Braine at the ambassador's residence here tonight.

The rank of "Commandeur" awarded to Ahmad Kamil is the highest of the three ranks within that order.

He is the first Malaysian recipient of the award, created in 1963, and given to foreigners who have rendered meritorious service to bilateral relations with France.

Ahmad Kamil, a former secretary-general of the foreign ministry, said he was deeply touched by the award and hoped that Malaysia-France ties would be further enhanced.

He was accompanied by his wife Puan Sri Lena Kamil. -- BERNAMA

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