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Japanese version of Dr M's new book launched

Syed Nadzi in Tokyo

THE Japanese version of Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's new book "A New Deal For Asia" was launched here yesterday with the publisher describing the Prime Minister as a statesman of vision.

Shigero Tsugamura, the chairman of Tachibana Publishing Inc, said he was sure that Japanese readers would appreciate what Dr Mahathir had written.

The Japanese version, in hardcover, is titled "Japan's recovery, Asian rebuilding" and comes a week after the book was launched in Kuala Lumpur.

Dr Mahathir, who was present at the Tokyo launch, said the book was written for the Japanese audience as it had special relevance to them.

"What I said in the book is what I have always been saying," he told a Press conference yesterday.

The book, which was launched in Malaysia on May 24 by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, looks at the financial and economic crisis which spread across the region from mid-1997.

It is significant that the Japanese version followed so quickly since Japan has special mention in the book.

Tracing his early years, Dr Mahathir among other things wrote about inspiration from the Japanese - how they were able to defeat the British in Malaya at the start of World War II and how disciplined the Japanese were.

"This somehow impressed upon me and later convinced me that with discipline, you can master almost anything," he wrote. "Thus, there was a new awakening amongst us that if we wanted to, we could be like the Japanese."

And he also mentioned about Japan, through foreign direct investments, being the driving force behind the Asian "economic miracle."

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