

23 DEC 1999

King-Japan

KING SENDS BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO EMPEROR AKIHITO

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 23 (Bernama) -- Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah has congratulated Emperor Akihito of Japan on the occasion of his 66th birthday today.

The King said he and Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Siti Aishah were optimistic that under Akihito's reign Japan would continue to enjoy peace, stability and prosperity.

In his message to Akihito, Sultan Salahuddin expressed the hope that the warm and close relations between Kuala Lumpur and Tokyo would be further strengthened in the future.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, in a message to his counterpart Keizo Obuchi, said under Akihito Japan had achieved tremendous progress and prosperity.

Its leading edge technology was a source of inspiration and admiration for all Asians, he said.

He said Malaysia also welcomed Japan's strong commitment as a developed nation to play its role in regional and international affairs that would undoubtedly lead to greater cohesion, prosperity and stability in the region and the world at large.

"On this happy occasion, allow me to convey my appreciation to you and your government for the assistance and support rendered to Malaysia during the financial and economic crisis," Dr Mahathir said.

He said Japan's commendable action had indeed contributed much to Malaysia's economic recovery.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar also sent similar greetings to his Japanese counterpart Yohei Kono.

The texts of the congratulatory messages were released by Wisma Putra.

-- BERNAMA

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