

# PM visibly moved by Iqbal's remarks

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TOKYO, Sun. Twenty-four-year-old Iqbal Abdullah had something to tell Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad when the Prime Minister met Malaysian students here last night.

For a moment, Dr Mahathir appeared visibly moved as Iqbal, a graduate of Saga university in the Saga Prefecture and now a system engineer with Sun Micro System here, expressed his deep gratitude to the Prime Minister for what he is today.

"I want to thank Dr Mahathir and (Royal Professor) Ungku Aziz for realising the Look East Policy which had enabled me to master

three languages and achieving what I have today," he told Dr Mahathir at the gathering of some 400 Malaysian students at the Malaysian embassy here.

Then Dr Mahathir broke into a smile as Iqbal apologised that he was not ready to return home to Malaysia to contribute to the country because he has not discovered the reason for Japan's economic setback after being economically powerful for a long time.

"Until I find out why, I will not return home," he said to the laughter and applause of the those present, among whom were the Prime Minister's wife Datuk Seri Dr

Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, Malaysian ambassador to Japan Datuk Marzuki Mohd Nor and embassy officials.

Iqbal, from Petaling Jaya and the second youngest of five children of national laureate Datuk Dr Abdullah Hussein, was among five Malaysian students and graduates of Japanese universities who asked for Dr Mahathir's views on current issues.

The Prime Minister, in his informal address, encouraged them to study hard and learn all the positive qualities from the Japanese that would help them when they return home.