

09 JUN 2001

Mahathir-Culture

ADOPT ONLY THE GOOD JAPANESE WORK ETHICS, SAYS MAHATHIR

By: Jamaluddin Muhammad

TOKYO, June 9 (Bernama) -- Malaysians should adopt only the good work ethics of the Japanese people and discard the negative lifestyle of the younger generation in that country, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister said the present generation in Japan appeared to be more interested in having fun and were materialistic as a result of being influenced by western culture.

He said the Japanese should retain the work culture of the hard-working older generation as it was this that made the country become advanced.

Dr Mahathir, who is on a three-day visit to Japan, said this at a dialogue with Malaysian students at the Malaysian Embassy here.

Replying to another question, Dr Mahathir said Malaysians were now capable of becoming inventors as proven by the many awards they won for inventions at the international level.

The problem, however, was that they were not good at obtaining the patents for their inventions or commercialising their inventions, he said.

The government was trying to get them to correct this situation, said the Prime Minister.

There was some touching moments at the dialogue when a former government-sponsored student, Iqbal Abdullah, took the opportunity to thank Dr Mahathir and relay a message from his father, national laureate Abdullah Hussein.

"My father and I thank Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir for giving me the opportunity to study in Japan and I am proud to be a product of the Look East policy," said Iqbal, 24, who currently works as a system engineer at Sun Microsystem here.

"I promise to return to the country in future to provide my service," he added.

Also present were the Prime Minister's wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamad Ali, and Malaysian Ambassador to Japan Datuk Marzuki Mohd Noor.

-- BERNAMA

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