

21 JAN 2001

Mahathir-Arrival

DR MAHATHIR RETURNS HOME AFTER WORKING VISIT TO OSAKA

SUBANG, Jan 21 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad returned home today after a four-day working visit to Osaka.

Dr Mahathir, accompanied by his wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, earlier made a brief stopover in Kota Kinabalu.

The plane carrying them landed at the Royal Malaysian Air Force base here at about 5.05pm.

During his visit to Osaka, Dr Mahathir delivered a keynote address at the Mainichi International Symposium, the first part of the "Wake Up Kansai" campaign aimed at reviving the sluggish economy in the Kansai region.

Speaking on the theme "Promoting Mutual Understanding Between Asia And Japan, Especially Kansai", the prime minister had urged Japan not to copy Western cultures 100 per cent but maintain its tested and successful traditional values.

He also attended a reception in commemoration of the publication of a book based on his articles in the Mainichi Daily News, the "Reflections of Asia".

During the visit, he also met Japan's Minister for Economic, Trade and Industry Takeo Hiranuma and Kansai Economic Federation chairman Yoshihisa Akiyama who is also the president of the Kansai Electric Power Co Inc.

One of the highlights of Dr Mahathir's visit was the tour to the Sharp Liquid Crystal Display (LCD) plant in Tenri City, Nara prefecture.

There, the prime minister, who witnessed the latest in the electronic world, called on the Japanese electronic giant to increase its investment in Malaysia, including locating its technologically-advanced LCD plant.

Besides that, he also explored multimedia learning at the well-known Osaka Electro-Communication University which specialises in information technology.

The prime minister then held a dialogue with Malaysian students studying in the Kansai region and participated in a Fuji Television Network recording of a forum entitled "Views And Ideas On The 21st Century-Future Of Asia And Japan's Choice".

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