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Japan to carry on giving financial aid

Nuraina Samad in Tokyo

JAPAN will continue to give financial aid to Malaysia and has given positive indications of future investments in the country, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

The Prime Minister said this assurance was given when he called on Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi at his office yesterday.

This is Dr Mahathir's first meeting with Koizumi, Japan's new Prime Minister.

Koizumi had given an assurance that Japan's policy on financial aid to fund infrastructure projects in Malaysia would remain unchanged.

The Prime Minister had also expressed Malaysia's appreciation for Japan's Yen loan in supporting Malaysia during the financial crisis.

Dr Mahathir, who is on a two-day working visit to Japan, had earlier visited the NTT Musashino R&D Centre.

He said NTT was the first company to build a research laboratory in Cyberjaya and was now expanding its facilities there.

"It shows that NTT has full confidence in Cyberjaya," he said.

During his visit to the centre, Dr Mahathir and his delegation were introduced to a NTT product - a smart card with a powerful chip that can carry a lot of information and tasks.

Dr Mahathir also said the United Nations University here has shown interest in carrying out joint research in bio-diversity in Malaysia.

He said it was necessary to set up research facilities in this field in Malaysia because natural resources were not allowed to be taken out of the country for this purpose.

He added that Malaysia has asked Japan to support this move.