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JAPANESE MINISTER CALLS ON DR MAHATHIR (With Pix)

PUTRAJAYA, July 5 (Bernama) -- Visiting Japanese Minister for Economic and Fiscal Policy, Dr Heizo Takenaka called on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at his office here today.

During the 40-minutes talks, Dr Mahathir, who is also acting Finance Minister and Dr Takenaka discussed both countries' economic and financial policies, said an official from the Prime Minister's Department.

Also present at the meeting were Japanese ambassador to Malaysia, Hedeki Harashima.

Dr Takenaka, who is also the Minister for Information Technology Policy, is in Malaysia to hold talks with the country's top financial officials.

Before he was appointed a cabinet minister, he was one of the most well-known commentator on economic policies having served as an economic professor at Keio University in Japan.

On June 21 this year, the Japanese Council on Economic and Fiscal Policy, chaired by Dr Takenake, announced policies for the macroeconomic management and structural reform of the Japanese economy.

Some of the policies, to name a few, were specifically drawn up to tackle non-performing loans, privatisation and regulatory reform programmes.

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