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JAPANESE PM TO MAKE TWO-DAY VISIT TO M'SIA IN JANUARY

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 27 (Bernama) -- Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi will make a two-day visit to Malaysia beginning Jan 10 as part of his tour to Southeast Asian countries.

A statement from the Japanese Embassy today said Koizumi, who would be on his first visit to Malaysia after coming to power less than a year ago, would meet Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"Prime Minister Koizumi will meet Dr Mahathir to discuss various issues of mutual concern," the statement said.

Since becoming prime minister, Koizumi had met Dr Mahathir on three occasions -- in Tokyo in June, in Shanghai in October and during the Asean+3 Summit in Brunei last month.

Koizumi would also have an audience with the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Tuanku Syed Putra Jamalullail during his visit.

Koizumi would thus become the first foreign dignitary to be received by the new King who ascended to the throne on Dec 13.

-- BERNAMA

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