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Mahathir-Visit

MAHATHIR TOURS SHARP PLANT ON SECOND DAY OF VISIT TO JAPAN

By: D. Arul Rajoo

OSAKA, Jan 19 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad continued his working trip to Japan today with visits to a Sharp plant and a university that emphasises on information technology (IT).

Dr Mahathir started the second day of his visit by touring the Sharp Liquid Crystal Display (LCD) plant in Tenri City, Nara prefecture, about one hour drive from here.

During the tour, the prime minister, accompanied by Sharp Corporation president Katsuhiko Machida, visited the Sharp Memorial and Technology Hall before proceeding to the Sharp LCD factory.

The factory specialises in the production of LCD panels and is one of the most technologically-advanced plant in the world.

Applications for LCD now extend beyond calculators and digital watches to countless other products, including word processors, televisions and even video systems on trains.

In 1973, Sharp, which currently has six plants in Malaysia, introduced EL-8025, the world's first electronic calculator featuring an LCD display.

After the Sharp plant tour, Dr Mahathir will depart for the Osaka Electro-Communication University in Kiyotaki to visit the Department of Media-Information Culture.

At the department, the prime minister will observe an IT class in session and see how students work on animations, movies, audio and language training.

Dr Mahathir will then return to Osaka City to attend a dialogue with Malaysian students studying in the Kansai region.

It is estimated that there are 85 sponsored students in the region, mostly taking engineering, science and IT related subjects.

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