

Koizumi accorded colourful welcome

PUTRAJAYA, Thurs: Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi was accorded a ceremonial welcome on his arrival at the prime minister's office complex for talks with Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir today

He was warmly greeted by Mahathir at Dataran Putra, fronting the green-domed complex, after which Mahathir accompanied his

guest to inspect a guard-of-honour mounted by four officers and 96 men from the first battalion of the Royal Malay Regiment under Mejar Abu Samah Mohamed Nooh.

Senior Malaysian government officials and foreign dignitaries were then introduced to Koizumi, who signed a guest book before

taking in the view of Putrajaya.

Both leaders had a closed-door chat before heading their respective sides at the delegation meeting.

Malaysia is the second leg of Koizumi's week-long visit to five Southeast Asian countries - the Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia and Singapore.