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Japan looking forward to PM's visit

KANGAR, Wed. — Japan is looking forward to the visit by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad there on May 21.

Japanese ambassador Masaki Konishi said the PM's visit was significant in view of the 20th anniversary of Malaysia's Look East Policy.

He said the future direction of the policy was discussed during Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's visit to Malaysia last January.

"Now with the pending visit by your PM, the discussions will continue," he said after calling on Perlis Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim yesterday.

Konishi also paid a courtesy call on Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon at his office today.

He said the Japanese multinationals were interested in investing in more sophisticated and value-added industries here.

"However, to realise this, we hope the State Government will introduce more attractive investment incentives for them," he said.

At present, there are 119 Japanese companies operating in Penang.

There are 1,455 Japanese firms in Malaysia.