

M'sia and Japan to decide future of Look East policy

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By SAODAH ELIAS

TOKYO: Malaysia and Japan will review the Look East policy to decide its future direction.

A seminar on the 20th anniversary of the policy organised by the Japanese Government today will enable both parties to look at the successes and weaknesses of the policy.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who will be in Japan for a two-day official visit, will deliver a keynote address at the seminar.

Malaysian ambassador to Japan Datuk Marzuki Mohamad Nor said Malaysia and

Japan had benefited from the policy but both countries felt that a review was necessary.

He said panel members of the seminar would include the Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Yasuo Fukuda and Public Services Department director-general Tan Sri Jamaluddin Damanhuri.

Speaking to the Malaysian press at the Malaysian Embassy here, Marzuki said Dr Mahathir would also address a symposium on "Islam: Fostering Peace and Dialogue in an Interdependent World" at the United Nations University tomorrow.

The symposium is jointly organised by the university, representatives of OIC mem-

ber countries in Japan and the Japanese Diet Committee on Islam.

"I have been informed that the organisers have to set up closed-circuit television facilities outside the hall where the symposium is taking place because the requests have far exceeded the seating capacity," he said.

Marzuki said Dr Mahathir, who would be accompanied by Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, would have an audience with Emperor Akihito at the Imperial Palace.

He would also call on Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi and meet prominent Japanese business leaders.