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Mahathir-Japan

DR MAHATHIR HOLDS TALKS WITH JAPANESE PM

TOKYO, May 21 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad held talks with Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi at his office at Sori Kantei here today.

Both leaders are expected to discuss issues of common concern and bilateral trade.

Dr Mahathir arrived here yesterday for a three-day visit.

He attended a private dinner hosted by former Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone last night.

Earlier today, Dr Mahathir had a breakfast meeting with members of the Japan-Malaysia Parliamentarians' Friendship League whose members include Japan's International Trade and Industry Minister Takeo Hiraoka and Finance Minister Masajuro Shiokawa.

Dr Mahathir later met Dr Kisho Kurokawa, architect of the KL International Airport (KLIA) in Sepang to discuss, among others, the proposed biovillage concept. The biovillage has been proposed as a dedicated zone to cluster biotechnology-related industries and services within the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC).

Dr Mahathir is also scheduled to deliver a keynote speech on "China -- A Challenge Or An Opportunity For Asean" at the Nikkei International Conference today.

The conference, focusing on China, is themed "The Future Of Asia -- Emerging China And The Changing Regional Framework".

Dr Mahathir has also been invited for an exclusive interview by Nihon Keizai Shimbun, Inc (Nikkei) as well as attend a TV interview with NHK for its prime time "News 10".

His schedule later in the day includes a meeting with Masajuro Shiokawa, who is Minister of Finance and Japan-Malaysia Association chairman, a special cocktail reception for Asian political leaders with Koizumi and the Nikkei conference dinner.

Tomorrow, Dr Mahathir will leave for Nagasaki for the ship-naming of the "Puteri Intan Satu", a vessel owned by the Malaysia International Shipping Corporation Bhd, at the Koyagi plant of the Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd's Nagasaki shipyard and machinery works.

-- BERNAMA

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