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Koizumi-Malaysia

JAPAN UNDERTAKING ECONOMIC REFORM WITH DETERMINATION - KOIZUMI

PUTRAJAYA, Jan 10 (Bernama) -- Japan is currently undertaking structural economic reform with unwavering determination, said Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi.

"To revitalise the Japanese economy is of crucial importance not only for Japan but also for South East Asian nations and for the whole world," he said at a dinner hosted by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at his residence here in honour of Koizumi.

Koizumi arrived here today for a one-day visit on the second leg of his tour of five Asean nations.

Koizumi said that when he saw Dr Mahathir for the first time in Tokyo last June, the Malaysian leader expressed strong support for Koizumi's resolves.

"I now recall how I was encouraged by Your Excellency's remarks then." he said.

Koizumi said today he had met Malaysians who studied in Japan under the Look East Policy and other programmes and "they all expressed their enthusiasim about future relations of our two countries."

He said bilateral relations since the 21st Century would be built upon such heart to heart ties between members of the younger generation.

On a more specific matter, he said the exchanges between Malaysia and Japan would continue for many generations to come in various forms.

"I would like to make my utmost effort to further promote these exchanges, considering the accumulation of exchanges for a long time and the potential to be further developed. I believe the relations between Japan and Malaysia will have a bright future," he said.

Koizumi added that today's meeting with Dr Mahathir would be remembered as an important milestone in the development of unwavering relations between the two nations.

-- BERNAMA

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