

10 JAN 2002

KOIZUMI ACCORDED CEREMONIAL WELCOME AT PUTRA SQUARE

PUTRAJAYA, Jan 10 (Bernama) -- Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi was accorded a ceremonial welcome on his arrival at the Prime Minister's Office Complex here for talks with his Malaysian counterpart Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today.

He was warmly greeted by Dr Mahathir at Dataran Putra fronting the green-domed complex after which he 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 led by Mej Abu Samah Mohamed Nooh.

Senior Malaysian government officials and foreign dignitaries were then introduced to Koizumi

He later signed a guest book before taking in the view of Putrajaya, Malaysia's new administrative capital from Dr Mahathir's office.

Both leaders then had a closed-door talk 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 - Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia and Singapore.

-- BERNAMA

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