

10 JAN 2002

Koizumi-Arrival

KOIZUMI ARRIVES FOR WHIRLWIND VISIT TO MALAYSIA

SEPANG, Jan 10 (Bernama) -- Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi arrived today to begin a one-day visit to Malaysia, the second leg of his tour of five Southeast Asian countries.

Present to welcome him at the KL International Airport here was Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar.

The special aircraft carrying Koizumi and his entourage landed at the airport at 1pm. He had earlier visited the Philippines.

This afternoon, Koizumi is scheduled to hold talks with his Malaysian counterpart Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad before proceeding for a delegation meeting between both sides at the Prime Minister's Office in Putrajaya, Malaysia's new administrative capital.

Dr Mahathir told reporters yesterday that his meeting with the Japanese leader would focus on bilateral issues including economic ties and terrorism.

Koizumi will have an audience with the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Syed Putra Jamalullail at Istana Negara later in the day.

Tonight, Dr Mahathir will host a dinner for the Japanese prime minister at his official residence "Seri Perdana" in Putrajaya.

Koizumi is scheduled to leave for Thailand tomorrow before continuing his week-long trip to the region with visits to Indonesia and Singapore.

This is his first trip to Southeast Asia after becoming prime minister last year.

-- BERNAMA

WN MAM AHH TS