

22 MAY 2002

Mahathir-Japan

MAHATHIR ENDS JAPAN VISIT, FLIES TO SEOUL

By: Siti Hawa Othman

NAGASAKI, May 22 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad departed here for Seoul this afternoon after a brief visit.

The prime minister, who arrived in Tokyo on Monday for a three-day visit, flew here this morning for the naming of a ship bought by the Malaysia International Shipping Corporation Bhd (MISC).

On arrival at the airport here, the prime minister and his entourage were taken by a special bus to the Koyagi shipyard where the ship, named Puteri Intan Satu, was built, for the ceremony.

The prime minister then went for a short tour of Ship Hull No 2165.

He also attended a luncheon held at the Prince Hotel to commemorate the naming of the ship.

Dr Mahathir then departed for the Nagasaki Airport where he boarded an executive jet for Korea.

During his visit, Dr Mahathir had a fruitful meeting with his Japanese counterpart, Junichiro Koizumi.

At the meeting, Japan gave its assurance to continue to assist Malaysia.

Issues covered at the talks included soft loans for projects in Malaysia as well as the setting up of the Asean+3 secretariat which is a prelude towards the formalisation of the proposed East Asian Economic Grouping (EAEG).

Japan has supported the proposal for the secretariat to be set up in Malaysia.

-- BERNAMA

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