

28 JUL 2003

Abdullah-Discussion

ABDULLAH HOLDS DISCUSSION WITH DELEGATION FROM JETRO, JACTIM

PUTRAJAYA, July 28 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi met a delegation from the Japan External Trade Organisation (Jetro) and Japan Chamber of Trade and Industry (Jactim) at his office here today.

The delegation, led by Jetro chairman and chief executive officer Osamu Watanabe, comprised 60 senior executives from 47 Japanese companies.

Speaking to reporters after the one-hour meeting, Abdullah said Malaysia always encouraged more small- and medium-scale companies (SME) from Japan to come here to invest and form joint ventures in various areas with their counterparts here.

"Japanese companies said they are ready to cooperate and form joint ventures here," Abdullah said.

He also said that he told the delegation that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was encouraging Japanese companies to invest, especially in the biotechnology field.

Watanabe said it was a very impressive meeting with the discussion focused on ways to enhance business cooperation between Malaysian and Japanese companies.

The delegation arrived here last night on a three-day business mission to Malaysia.

Earlier this morning, the delegation members met International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz. They will attend a briefing by the Malaysian Industrial Development Authority (Mida) and have a business match-making session this afternoon.

Tomorrow, they are scheduled to call on Dr Mahathir.

-- BERNAMA

RIZ JK