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Abdullah-Policies

ASEAN LEADERS ASSURED THAT MALAYSIA WILL CONTINUE WITH ITS EXISTING POLICIES

By: Mohd Fisol Jaafar

TOKYO, Dec 11 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said the government under his leadership will continue with its existing policies and ties with other Asean countries.

He gave the assurance in his bilateral meetings with leaders from other Asean-member countries that are attending the Asean-Japan Commemorative Summit here.

"I told them that policies that foster closer ties will be continued and that I will continue the policies brought about by (former prime minister) Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad who led the Barisan Nasional (BN) government before me," he told Malaysian journalists here after meeting Thailand Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra today.

All leaders of the 10 Asean-member countries are attending the two-day summit which began today. This is Abdullah's first participation in an international forum since he took over as Malaysia's fifth prime minister last Oct 31.

The summit is also the first to be held between Asean and one of its dialogue partners outside Southeast Asia.

Other Asean leaders met by Abdullah today were President Megawati Sukarnoputri of Indonesia, Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei and Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong.

He is expected to meet Vietnamese Prime Minister Phan Van Khai, Laotian Prime Minister Boun Nhang Vorachith, Myanmar Prime Minister Khin Nyunt and Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Seng tonight.

Abdullah also held bilateral talks with Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi and had an audience with Emperor Akihito.

Abdullah said he also expressed hope that problems involving Malaysia and other Asean countries could be quickly resolved.

"If there are problems that need to be resolved immediately, we will use the telephone. It is only for problems that are really serious and needed to be resolved immediately," he said.

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