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OIBA-MALAYSIA

INVESTORS FOCUS ATTENTION ON MALAYSIA, SAYS OIBA

OKAYAMA, Aug 7 (Bernama) -- The chairman of International Business Association (OIBA), Kanji Inaba, said Asean countries, especially Malaysia, has become the centre of attention among investors after realising there are some risks investing to China.

He said that before the outbreak of SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome), a lot of companies were actively planning to invest in China.

"But after SARS, we realised there are risks in China like information management problems," he said in his welcoming speech to the Malaysian delegation here today.

"Malaysia has developed a stable political system. It is improving its productivity and providing well developed infrastructure including the telecommunications field," Inaba said.

He added that Malaysia was also actively inviting foreign direct investments by preparing various incentives to assist businessmen.

He also said that in the last two decades, Malaysia and Okayama had strengthened their relationship.

In 1983, Mitsubishi Motor Mizushima Works invested in Malaysia followed by Rohm Wako Co Ltd in 1987.

"After that, seven more companies invested in Malaysia," Inaba said.

According to statistics on the number of overseas operations from Okayama, he said Malaysia was the fifth most popular investment destination.

In July 1997, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was invited here by the Okayama Association of Corporate Executives for a symposium and he delivered a keynote speech.

"His lecture left a great impression on the audience," Inaba added. --
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