

11 JAN 2003

MAHATHIR-JAPAN

JAPANESE FINANCE MINISTER CALLS ON DR MAHATHIR

PUTRAJAYA, Jan 11 (Bernama) -- Japanese Finance Minister Masajuro Shiokawa, currently on a two-day visit to Malaysia, today called on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at his office here.

Shiokawa, who arrived here yesterday, was also scheduled to meet Deputy Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi later today.

Shiokawa, who is also the chairman of the Japan-Malaysia Association in Japan, would meet Japanese business leaders in Malaysia.

Japan and Malaysia are significant trading partners, with Tokyo among Malaysia's top export markets.

It absorbed 10.6 percent of Malaysia's exports in October 2002 amounting to RM4.3 billion, higher by 6.3 percent from the previous month, mainly due to an increase in the intake of liquefied natural gas, electrical and electronic products and wood products (19.3 percent).

Imports from Japan in October last year amounted to RM4.9 billion. --

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