

04 JUN 2003

Mahathir-Biotechnology

MAHATHIR ON BIOTECHNOLOGY TOUR

By: Salbiah Said

TOKYO, June 4 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will spend the second day of his visit here today with a visit to the Riken Yokohoma Institute, one of the important biotechnology research centres in Japan.

He will spend about two hours at the institute.

Established in 1917, Riken was originally founded to undertake basic and applied scientific research in a diverse range of fields including physics, biology and medicine science.

The Riken Yokohoma Institute comprises the Genomic Sciences Research, the Plant Sciences and the SNP Research Centre, and the Research Centre for Allergy and Immunology.

Earlier today, Dr Mahathir was given a briefing on the BioValley master plan by Dr Kisho Kurokawa at his suite in the Imperial Hotel. Dr Kurokawa is the architect of both the BioValley project launched in Dengkil last month and the Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA) in Sepang.

The Malaysian premier later held discussions with chief executives of Japanese pharmaceutical companies and researchers at the hotel.

Tonight, Dr Mahathir and Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali will attend a dinner hosted by Ryoki Sugita, president and CEO of Nihon Keizai Shimbun Inc.

-- BERNAMA

SS HK RM