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Abe lauds PM's administration

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GROWTH: He eyes bilateral ties that evolve in accordance with current needs



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JAPAN wants to continue working closely with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak's administration, which has been instrumental in pushing Malaysia towards becoming a high-income nation and solidifying

Tokyo-Kuala Lumpur ties.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said Japan and Malaysia were closely linked by strong bonds.

This, he said, was supported by people-to-people exchanges based on the Look East Policy, as well as the vibrant trade and investment activities carried out between both countries.

"Malaysia is focusing on advancing its economic policy packages, including the 11th Malaysia Plan, with the aim of becoming a high-income nation by 2020 under the strong leadership of Najib.

"Japan is generating a positive growth cycle in its economy by

steadily implementing economic policies, including the Growth Strategy.

"I would like to bring forth the synergistic effects of our two countries' economic policies in order to further grow together," Abe said in his speech at the 34th Japan-Malaysia Economic Association (JAMECA) and Malaysia-Japan Economic Association (MAJECA) Joint Conference here yesterday.

Abe told participants that he had had the pleasure of meeting Najib six times to date, with both leaders making reciprocal visits to each other last year.

"I intend to promote cooperation between our two countries so that our bilateral relationship will

evolve in accordance with the needs of our era," he said in his speech, which was read out by Japanese ambassador to Malaysia Dr Makio Miyagawa.



Shinzo Abe

Najib, in his speech, read out by Malaysian ambassador to Japan, Datuk Ahmad Izlan Idris, outlined new growth opportunity areas in the country, where greater incentives had been announced for new investments.

This, he said, included those in Kedah and the East Coast Economic Region, particularly in Pahang.

"This conference is held at a time when the Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement had been signed and Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership negotiations are un-

der way to establish comprehensive regional trade partnerships.

"These two initiatives will provide a springboard for a whole range of new opportunities for trade and investments in the region.

"Indeed, the bilateral relations and economic collaboration between Malaysia and Japan will be further enhanced."

Najib told participants that the year had seen a few initiatives carried out so far, including the Malaysia-Japan Economic Forum, organised under the auspices of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, as well as the Japan-Malaysia Investment Symposium, organised by Tokyo's Invest Japan Department.

The JAMECA-MAJECA conference, he said, would serve to open up new investment opportunities for both countries.