

**Look East Policy Still Has A Positive Impact On Malaysia's Development, Says
Mohd Shafie Apdal
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From Mohd Hisham Abdul Rafar**

TOKYO, Sept 22 (Bernama) -- Malaysia will continue emulating Japan in every aspect as the Look East policy implemented by former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad clearly had and still has a positive impact in efforts to transform the country into a developed nation by 2020.

"The Japanese have such a high sense of discipline, which is a factor that empowers them as a race and nation. Japan is a country from whom we can study a great deal," said Rural and Regional Development Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Shafie Apdal, who is on a five-day working visit to Japan from Sept 20.

The Look East policy has clearly contributed a great deal to Malaysia's development in every field, he said.

He was speaking to Malaysian reporters after a gathering with 300 Malaysian students, including Majlis Amanah Rakyat (MARA) scholars, here Saturday.

Also present was MARA director-general Datuk Ibrahim Ahmad.

"When these students return home, they would be placed with Japanese companies investing in Malaysia and would also fill the human resource demand by other foreign investors," he said.

Apart from the Japanese people's discipline, Malaysians should also emulate their diligence, punctuality and fine manners, he added.

Mohd Shafie, who was accompanied by his wife, Datin Seri Shuryani Shuaib, was warmly welcomed by the students.

Prior to the gathering, Mohd Shafie witnessed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the MARA Education Foundation and two Japanese universities, the Shibaura Institute of Technology and Takushoku University.

The MoU was signed by the Foundation's chief executive officer Dr Zubir Harun and Shibaura's and Takushoku's Directors of International Affairs, Chung Yung Jin and Takeuchi Shinjo respectively.

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