

King Arrives In Tokyo To Begin State Visit To Japan
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From Rosmah Mohamad Salim

TOKYO, Oct 1 (Bernama) -- Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah and Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Hajah Haminah arrived here Monday to begin a five-day state visit to Japan.

The special aircraft carrying Their Majesties touched down at Haneda International Airport at 4.30 pm local time (3.30 pm in Malaysia).

The delegation included the Tunku Temenggong of Kedah, Tan Sri Tunku Sallehuddin ibni Almarhum Sultan Badlishah, Toh Puan Temenggong of Kedah, Puan Sri Tengku Maliha Tengku Ariff, the Tunku Panglima Besar of Kedah Tan Sri Tunku Puteri Intan Safinaz Tuanku Alhaj Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah and Minister of Higher Education Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin, who is the minister-in-attendance.

They were met on arrival by the Malaysian Ambassador to Japan, Datuk Shaharuddin Md Som, and his wife, Datin Norasikin Hashim, and the Chief of Protocol of Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sumio Kusaka.

Their Majesties were introduced to senior officials of Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the top management of Haneda International Airport.

The delegation was also welcomed with a 21-gun salute.

Their majesties were then driven in a motorcade to the State Guest House (Akasaka Palace), the official residence for visiting foreign dignitaries to the Land of the Rising Sun.

The state welcome ceremony will be held on Wednesday at the Imperial Palace here.

The Malaysia's King and Queen will also make a state call on their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko after the welcome ceremony. This will be followed by a state banquet in the evening.

On Tuesday, the royal couple will visit the Skytree Tower, the highest telecommunications tower in the world, in Sumida-ku, here.

In a separate function, Tuanku Abdul Halim will attend a luncheon hosted by the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Japan Business Federation, Japan Association of Corporate Executives, Japan External Trade Organisation (Jetro) and Japan-Malaysia Business Committee.

Tuanku Hajah Haminah, meanwhile, will attend a luncheon aboard the Symphony Tokyo Bay Cruise, in Minato-ku, here.

On Thursday, the Queen will visit the Orphanage House Fukuin-Ryo, in Setagaya-ku, here.

Their Majesties will receive in audience Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda and his wife Hitomi Noda at the State Guest House later in the afternoon.

Afterwards, the royal couple will join the Malaysian community in Japan at a dinner at the Imperial Hotel, here. Their Majesties will depart for home on Friday.

Japan, an island country forming an arc in the Pacific Ocean, comprises four large islands named (in decreasing order of size) Honshu, Hokkaido, Kyushu and Shikoku, together with many small islands. With a total land area of about 378,000 sq km, Japan is about the same size as Germany, Finland, Vietnam or Malaysia.

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