

**Agong Accorded Ceremonial Welcome At Imperial Palace  
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From Rosmah Salim**

TOKYO, Oct 3 (Bernama) -- Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah was accorded an official ceremonial welcome at the Imperial Palace here Wednesday.

The Malaysian King and the Raja Permaisuri Agong, Tuanku Hajah Haminah, were greeted on arrival by Japan's Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko as well as Crown Prince Naruhito and Prince and Princess Akishino.

The royal couple arrived in Tokyo on Monday for a five-day state visit to Japan.

Members of the Imperial family, Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda and his wife Hitomi Noda were introduced to the Malaysian royal couple.

During the ceremony, the national anthem of both countries 'Negaraku' and 'Kimigayo' were played by the Japanese Self Defence Forces brass band.

This was followed by the King taking the salute from an honour guard comprising 132 personnel from the Japanese Ground Self Defence Forces.

As Tuanku Abdul Halim inspected the guard-of-honour, about 120 children from Gakushuin Elementary School waved the 'Jalur Gemilang' and 'Hinomaru', the national flags of Malaysia and Japan respectively.

Members of the Japanese Cabinet were also introduced to the Malaysian royal entourage.

Following the ceremonial welcome, Tuanku Abdul Halim and Tuanku Hajah Haminah made a State Call on Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko which took place at the Bamboo Room (Take-no-Ma) of the Imperial Palace.

A state banquet in honour of the Malaysian royal couple will be held at the palace in the evening.

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