

**Japan To Send Mission To Malaysia Over Missing Jet**  
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TOKYO, March 12 (Bernama) -- The Japanese government decided on Tuesday to send a mission to Malaysia to cooperate in the search for a missing Malaysia Airlines jet under Japan's law on the dispatch of emergency missions abroad, Japan's Jiji Press reported.

According to the news agency, the plan is based on a request from the Malaysian government.

An advance team, which includes personnel of the Self-Defence Forces (SDF) and the Japan Coast Guard, left Japan early Wednesday. After arriving in Kuala Lumpur, members of the team will meet with Malaysian government officials for coordination.

The Air SDF will dispatch a C-130 transport plane, if necessary, to search for the missing jet. It would be the first time for the Japanese Defence Ministry to send the SDF overseas to search for a missing aircraft.

The Japan Coast Guard is also preparing to dispatch its aircraft.

The Malaysia Airlines jet, carrying 239 passengers and crew members, disappeared over the South China Sea early Saturday morning after departing Kuala Lumpur for Beijing.

Countries including the US, China and Singapore are involved in the search for the plane.

Earlier on Tuesday, four key ministers from Japan's National Security Council met to discuss cooperation in the search for the plane.

Chief Cabinet Secretary, Yoshihide Suga said at a press conference the same day that Japan was ready to cooperate.

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