

Japan's prince praises Malaysia's success despite diversity
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Japan's Crown Prince Naruhito says Malaysia can be a model for a world faced with conflicts.

PETALING JAYA: Japan's Crown Prince Naruhito said today he believed Malaysia's success was based on its ethnic, religious and cultural diversity and tolerance for one another.

AP news agency quoted him as saying Malaysia could be a model for a world faced with conflicts.

Naruhito is the oldest son of Emperor Akihito and is first in line to the Chrysanthemum throne.

The news agency said the crown prince held a rare news conference at his palace in Tokyo today ahead of a four-day visit to Malaysia later this week.

Naruhito said he was looking forward to learning from Malaysia's experience in using its ethnic, religious and cultural diversity as a source for development.

He noted that Malaysia had a racial mix of Malays, Chinese and Indians, who had come to respect each other's differences and coexisted to build the country.

He said he hoped to observe and hear from the people themselves how Malaysia could be a model for international societies.

He said he hoped his visit to Malaysia would foster friendship and understanding especially among the young generations of both countries. Naruhito has a daughter, Princess Aiko, 15.

Naruhito is expected to attend a state banquet hosted by Sultan Muhammad V who is British-educated. He will also meet Prime Minister Najib Razak, as well as Malaysian students and Japanese residents.

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