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SPEECH BY THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER TO OPEN
THE EXHIBITION OF DECORATIVE ARTS OF MODERN
JAPAN AT DEWAN TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN, KUALA

LUMPUR, ON 15TH NOVEMBER, 1965

Puan P.G. Lirri, Your Excellency Dato Fumihiko Kai and Datin Kai,

Your Excellencies, Hon'ble Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen:

When I was invited to open this Exhibition, of "Decorative Arts of Modern Japan" I most willingly agreed, because of the close and cordial relations that happily obtain between Malaysia and Japan, and also because of my own very pleasant memories of various visits I have made to Japan.

The people of Malaysia take a very great interest in Japan today because it is unquestionably the leading industrial nation of Asia, and its remarkable development has rightly been referred to as an economic miracle.

Malaysians have become very familiar with visiting Japanese missions, mostly in the commercial and industrial field. Japan is also a favourite holiday venue for Malaysians. These inter-changes and personal contacts have brought our countries and peoples closer together.

We share common ideals for progressive and peaceful development, especially in international affairs. We look forward to Japan playing a leading role in the peace and prosperity of the newly developed countries of Asia.

For the past five years Japan has been playing a major role in providing technical assistance to Malaysia in various ways, to a total value of almost \$2,000,000. This assistance takes the forms of providing experts in various fields, especially agriculture, training in Japan of Malaysians, and scholarships.

Japan has also begun to be active in the sphere of capital assistance to Malaysia in the past year or so, the principal contribution being diesel engines for our Railways.

At the end of this year or early next we will see in Malaysia a new field of Japanese assistance with the arrival of the first ten members

of their recently established Volunteer Corps who will be coming to help in agriculture and cottage industries.

Apart from all these close links, there is hardly need for me to mention what is already well-known, and that is the increasing number of investments in industry and manufactures which Japanese private entrepreneurs are making in Malaysia.

Now today Malaysia will have the opportunity of seeing for the first time an important cultural Exhibition. I am given to understand that this display of decorative Arts, which has been in planning for two years, is of outstanding merit. The influence of Japanese taste in art and architecture is spreading quietly throughout the world, in such many ways as it did a hundred years ago. This Exhibition presents the finest example of decorative arts in various media, and should prove to be an inspiration to the remarkable potential of artistic talents that we in Malaysia so happily and fortunately have.

As the poet says, "A thing of beauty is a joy forever", and I am assured that there are very many beautiful objects of art to be seen in this National Art Gallery of Malaysia over the next two months.

I, therefore, take very great pleasure indeed in thanking both the Japanese authorities and the National Art Gallery for this unique occasion and I am very happy to declare the Exhibition open for the enjoyment of our people in Malaysia.



Tun Abdul Razak b. Hussein di Upacara Perasmian Pembukaan Pameran Seni Hiasan Moden Jepun di Dewan Tunku Abdul Rahman, Kuala Lumpur pada 15 November, 1965.