

MESSAGE BY THE HONOURABLE THE PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA
DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED (TO BE READ BY H.E. THE MALAYSIAN
AMBASSADOR)

20 MARCH 1983

President of JAMECA, President of MAJECA, Members of
JAMECA/MAJECA,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is indeed a pleasure for me to send this message to the Sixth Joint Meeting of JAMECA and MAJECA. I would also like to take the opportunity to congratulate the Associations on this auspicious occasion. I have observed with keen personal interest the progress achieved by the Associations since their inauguration in 1977, especially in promoting greater economic exchanges between Malaysia and Japan. Malaysia always recognises the need for mutual understanding and cooperation in strengthening economic relations between herself and her trading partners, including Japan. I am very happy to note that Japan shares our views.

During my visit to Japan recently, I had urged Japan's industrial leaders to step up the transfer of technology through more investments in Malaysia as part of the long term efforts to further strengthen the relationship between our two countries. I emphasised not only on the heart-to-heart diplomacy, but also the mind-to-mind technology transfer, and hand-in-hand cooperation in building the existing relationship into a mutually beneficial and long lasting one. Malaysia is very grateful to the Japanese Government for agreeing to Malaysia's request for a special loan amounting to 50 billion Yen in addition to its pledge of 21 billion Yen for the Ninth Yen Credit. This agreement was most significant in the context of our cooperation in the field of economic development. Malaysia has been receiving yen credits from the Japanese Government since the mid sixties. The special loan extended to us will be significant in view of the difficulties faced by us due to the world economic recession. It is my hope that Japan will continue to extend her assistance and cooperation to Malaysia in our development efforts. In this regard, the Associations can continue to play a very important role in our bilateral economic relations.

I wish this Sixth Joint Meeting every success.

Thank you.