

**CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE ON THE OCCASION OF THE 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE LOOK EAST POLICY FROM THE HONOURABLE DATO' SRI MOHD NAJIB, THE PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA TO HIS EXCELLENCY YOSHIHIKO NODA, PRIME MINISTER OF JAPAN TO BE RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC (Outline)**

---

“On the auspicious occasion of the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Look East Policy (LEP), I wish to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt appreciation for the long standing Japanese assistance and cooperation to Malaysia since the inception of the LEP in 1982.

For the past three decades, more than 15,000 Malaysians have benefitted from the LEP through studies and trainings at Japanese universities and companies, especially in sectors that require skills and the use of advanced technology. The LEP has produced highly-skilled Malaysian engineers with Japanese style industriousness and work ethics and contributed immensely to Malaysia’s growth, development and technological advancement over the last 30 years.

The LEP has been a clear testament of close friendship and partnership between Malaysia and Japan. Both sides have benefitted tremendously from the LEP, not only at the level of Government-to-Government, but also at the levels of business-to-business and people-to-people. The LEP has been instrumental in the industrialization of the Malaysian economy, made possible by Japanese investors and companies operating in Malaysia. The LEP has made it possible for Malaysia to establish its own automobile industry. The automotive industry is now considered as one of the most important and strategic industries in the manufacturing sector of Malaysia.

Malaysia highly values Japan’s continued cooperation and commitment towards the LEP which will definitely be vital in contributing and supporting Malaysia’s Economic Transformation Programme (ETP) in transforming the country into a high-income nation by 2020.

It is in this context that I am delighted to note the establishment of the Malaysia-Japan International Institute of Technology (MJIIT), based in Kuala Lumpur. I hope through continued Japanese assistance and cooperation in the years ahead, the MJIIT would

be a centre of education excellence, not only for Malaysians, but also for students from other countries, especially from the South East Asian region.

On this note, I wish to reaffirm my strong confidence in the continued relevance of the LEP in promoting the close cooperation between our two countries. It is my fervent hope that the existing friendly and cordial relations between Malaysia and Japan will continue to strengthen and expand in the future.”