

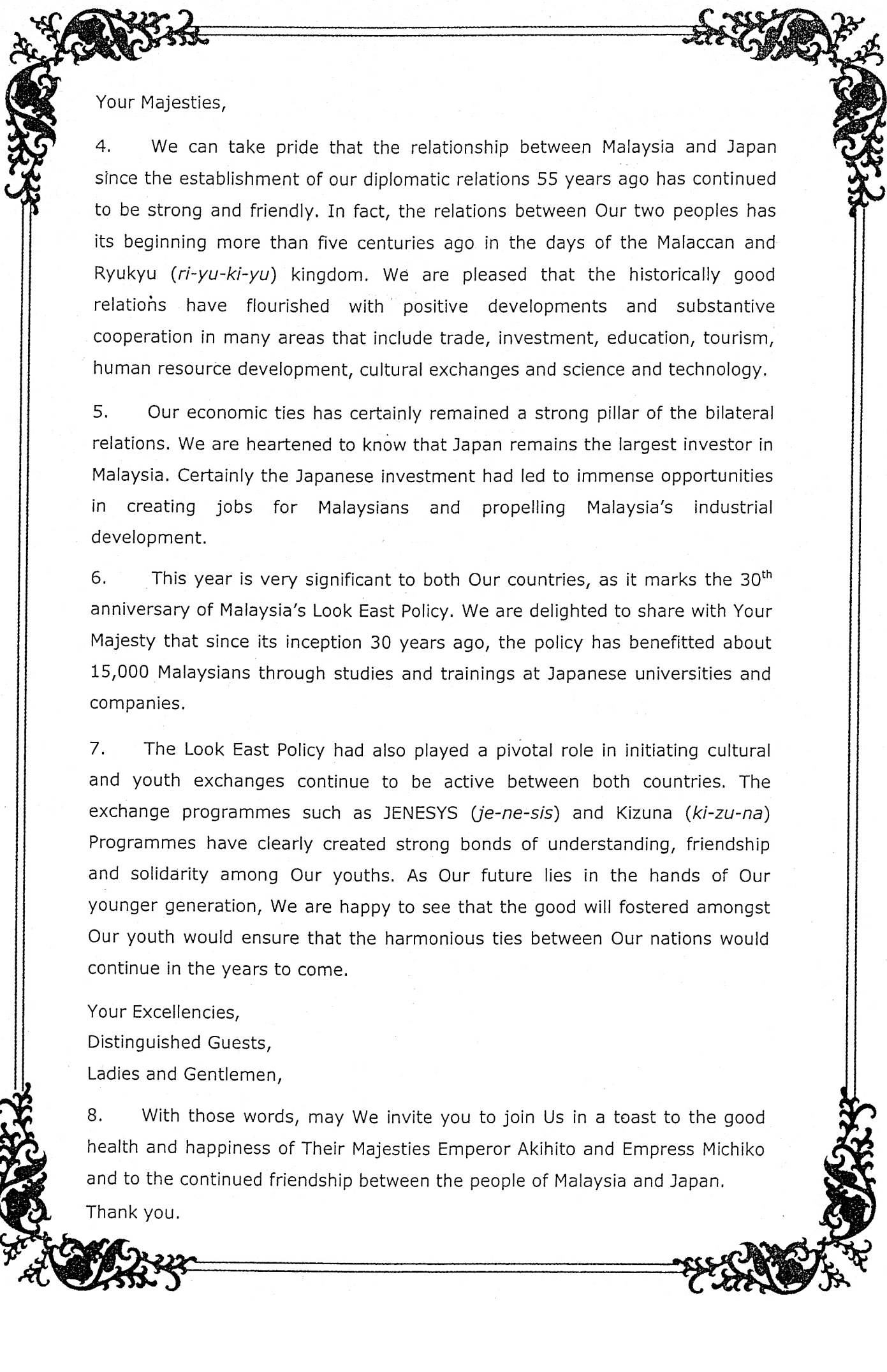
ADDRESS BY
HIS MAJESTY ALMU'TASIMU BILLAHI MUHIBBUDDIN
TUANKU ALHAJ ABDUL HALIM MU'ADZAM SHAH
IBNI ALMARHUM SULTAN BADLISHAH
THE KING OF MALAYSIA XIV

Your Majesty Empress Michiko,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Raja Permaisuri Agong and I would like to express to Your Majesties, Our deepest gratitude and appreciation for the very warm words of welcome. We would also like to express Our sincere appreciation to Your Majesties, the Government and people of Japan for the generous and kind hospitality and excellent arrangements extended to Us and to Our delegation since the day of Our arrival. It is indeed a great honour for Us to receive your invitation to visit your beautiful country and we are very much captivated by the smile and friendliness of the people of Japan.

2. We recall fondly Our meeting with Your Majesties in London last May during Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee that has indeed further deepened Our friendly personal ties. Our meeting in London has definitely rekindled the sweet memories of Our first meeting many years ago. We also recall vividly how privileged We were to have Your Majesties visit Our Country three times, as the Crown Prince and Crown Princess in 1970 and as the Emperor and Empress of Japan in 1991 and 2006. We are certainly delighted and honoured to pay tribute to Your Majesties who are no strangers to Malaysia. Therefore, it is with Our highest confidence that Our State Visit to Japan would strengthen the bonds of amity and partnership between Our two countries.

3. The charm of this land of cherry blossoms with its unique culture has always made this country a fascinating place to visit. Its miraculous economic growth and its leading place among the community of nations have continued to be a source of inspiration to Us. We can never help but admire Japan's uniqueness development, advancement in technology and impressive modernization. Despite the challenges faced by the people of Japan following the Great East Japan Earthquake last year, We believe Japan is poised to remain competitive and strong among the preeminent nations in the world.



Your Majesties,

4. We can take pride that the relationship between Malaysia and Japan since the establishment of our diplomatic relations 55 years ago has continued to be strong and friendly. In fact, the relations between Our two peoples has its beginning more than five centuries ago in the days of the Malaccan and Ryukyu (*ri-yu-ki-yu*) kingdom. We are pleased that the historically good relations have flourished with positive developments and substantive cooperation in many areas that include trade, investment, education, tourism, human resource development, cultural exchanges and science and technology.

5. Our economic ties has certainly remained a strong pillar of the bilateral relations. We are heartened to know that Japan remains the largest investor in Malaysia. Certainly the Japanese investment had led to immense opportunities in creating jobs for Malaysians and propelling Malaysia's industrial development.

6. This year is very significant to both Our countries, as it marks the 30th anniversary of Malaysia's Look East Policy. We are delighted to share with Your Majesty that since its inception 30 years ago, the policy has benefitted about 15,000 Malaysians through studies and trainings at Japanese universities and companies.

7. The Look East Policy had also played a pivotal role in initiating cultural and youth exchanges continue to be active between both countries. The exchange programmes such as JENESYS (*je-ne-sis*) and Kizuna (*ki-zu-na*) Programmes have clearly created strong bonds of understanding, friendship and solidarity among Our youths. As Our future lies in the hands of Our younger generation, We are happy to see that the good will fostered amongst Our youth would ensure that the harmonious ties between Our nations would continue in the years to come.

Your Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

8. With those words, may We invite you to join Us in a toast to the good health and happiness of Their Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko and to the continued friendship between the people of Malaysia and Japan.

Thank you.