

Of Japanese...

Firms 'Should Promote' More Local People

TOKYO (UPI) — Japanese companies doing business in Asia should promote more local people and be cautious about the way they go into retail trade, an official of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) said.

Toshinobu Wada, Director General of MITI's International Trade Policy Bureau, also disclosed at a news conference Japanese overseas investment in Asia reached \$1.89 billion in September, 1973.

"There should be upgrading of local people into management," said Wada, who accompanied Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka of his recent tour of five Southeast Asian countries.

The tour was marked by anti-Japanese demonstrations in Thailand and a riot in Jakarta.

"When Japanese companies go into the retail trade sector I think they have to be extremely careful," Wada said. "If they are primarily handling expensive, foreign-made goods it will create an atmosphere foreign to the lives of the public."

Wada cited the Isetan Department store in Singapore as a Japanese enterprise that was "free of trouble."

Isetan carries a lot of Singapore-made goods and non-Japanese goods," Wada said. "This is not the case with the Daimaru store in Bangkok."

However, Wada also emphasized that he did not mean Japan should avoid retail trade altogether.

Wada said Japan will do "all possible" to keep up its shipments of industrial raw materials such as refined petroleum products of Asian countries. But he warned because of the world oil shortage the situation in Japan now is "abnormal."

"We are making special allowances to countries that supply materials to Southeast Asia and Korea," he said.

Wada denied Japan would

shift to an "export strategy" to cover its losses due to the increased price of crude oil. Japan imports 99 per cent of its supply, about 80 per cent of it from Middle Eastern countries.

Statistics released by Wada indicated that oil and mineral-rich Indonesia accounted for 37 per cent of

Japan's Asian investment, with a total of \$705.2 million.

The MITI statistics listed 262 different enterprises in which Japanese capital was invested in Indonesia.

Other Asian countries in which Japan has private capital invested were listed as:

South Korea, 552 cases, \$291.834 million.

Malaysia, 220 cases, \$144.24 million.

Hong Kong, 551 cases, \$142.1 million.

Thailand, 364 cases, \$140.6 million.

Singapore, 259 cases, \$126.6 million.

Taiwan, 538 cases, \$212.1 million.

Philippines, 128 cases, \$96.1 million.

South Vietnam, 16 cases, \$3.77 million.

Another \$119 million were scattered through other Asian nations, including India, the MITI statistics showed.