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PM: No change in policies

Ashraf Abdullah

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi has assured Asean leaders that he would continue with regional policies set by his predecessor Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who vehemently advocated regionalism during his 22 years as Prime Minister.

He said he would continue with policies to foster good relations with other Asean nations and enhance partnerships.

Abdullah said this during his bilateral meetings with Asean leaders yesterday on the sidelines of the Asean-Japan Commemorative Summit.

In keeping with Asean's tradition, Abdullah said he had assured them that he would be visiting each Southeast Asian country soon.

"We also agreed that if there are urgent matters, we can discuss them over the telephone instead of the normal diplomatic channel which will take time," he told Malaysian journalists. He said Asean leaders also agreed that the various joint commissions should meet every year.