

Najib in Hanoi for 3-day Asean Summit
Malaysianmirror.com
28 October 2010

HANOI - Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak arrived here early Thursday morning for a three-day 17th Asean Summit and Related Summit, beginning today.

The aircraft carrying Najib and his wife, Rosmah Mansor, touched down at the Noi Bai International Airport, here, at about 1.15am (Malaysian time: 2.15am).

The premier and his wife were welcomed by Deputy Foreign Minister Richard Riot, Malaysian Ambassador to Vietnam Lim Kim Eng and Vietnamese Deputy Chief of Protocol, Tran Thanh Cong.

Najib will have a packed programme with the opening of the 17th Asean Summit at the National Convention Centre as well as the Summit in Retreat format and Informal Working Dinner on Thursday.

On Friday, Najib will join his counterparts for the Related Summits. The Related Summits include Asean+1 Summits with China, Japan, South Korea and India; Asean+3; and the East Asian Summit (EAS) involving Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand and South Korea as well as four additional Summits which are with Russia, Australia, New Zealand and the United Nations.

He will also attend the fifth Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT-GT) Summit, to be held on the sideline of the 17th Asean Summit.

Najib is also scheduled to witness the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Sapura Crest and Vietnam Petroleum on the sideline of the Summits on Saturday.

During the 17th Asean Summit, Najib and his counterparts will exchange views on regional and international issues of common concern to Asean such as Asean connectivity, recovery and sustained development, food and energy security, climate change, disaster relief, infectious diseases and the evolving regional architecture.

Among the highlights of the 17th Asean Summit is the recommendation by the Asean Foreign Ministers to the Asean leaders to formally invite the United States and Russia to join the EAS in 2011.

The Asean leaders are expected to adopt three documents namely the Master Plan on Asean Connectivity, the Asean Leaders' Statement on Human Resources and Skills Development for Economic Recovery and Sustainable Growth, and the Hanoi Declaration on the Enhancement of Welfare Development of Asean Women and Children. - Bernama

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