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Najib: Asean can shape global developments

MALAYSIA said the 18th Asean Summit's theme, "Asean will show the way", must be translated into all of the regional grouping's endeavours so that it could become an exemplary organisation.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said by showing the way and leveraging on its strengths as a community, Asean could shape global developments.

He said Malaysia believed that the approaches and measures taken in advancing the integration agenda should be people-oriented.

Therefore, Malaysia called on the region's youth to pursue studies in Asean member states, he added.

He said while education was critical to a more people-centred Asean, the move would also develop kinships and long-lasting friendships among students.

Malaysia proposed that Asean education ministers look into the idea of transferring credits between



higher institutions in the region so that Asean students could spend at least one year in another Asean country.

On Asean's bid to host the 2030 Federation Internationale de Football Association World Cup, Najib said Malaysia believed that sports could unite the region's citizens and the bid would "go a long way to foster a spirit of Asean community".

Malaysia also stressed the need for Asean nations to look at how they could support each other in energy security.

Najib said as some members were rich in resources and others had capital wealth, members could

leverage on this and develop bilateral and multilateral projects to generate electricity and power.

This, he said, would enable people to have a stable source of electricity, which would boost development.

On the Thai-Cambodia border dispute, Malaysia said the issue should be kept within Asean and that Asean conflict prevention and dispute settlement instruments should be used to resolve it.

Malaysia pledged to support Indonesia as Asean chair to help both countries resolve the issue.

(Thai Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva and Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen agreed to meet Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono here to find a way to end deadly clashes along their disputed border, officials said.

Susilo will host a meeting between both of them today to try to hammer out a lasting ceasefire to end repeated outbreaks of fighting that

have killed more than a dozen people over two weeks and forced nearly 100,000 villagers to flee.

Hun Sen said he would respond positively to any initiative from Indonesia.

Abhisit said his country had no ill intentions towards Cambodia and reiterated that the issue could be solved in talks between the two countries.)

Asean leaders yesterday met with 20 youth representatives, including two from Malaysia.

They acknowledged the important role that youths played towards the betterment of the region, with Najib urging them to use the Internet and social networks to make changes in society.

Citing the example of the turbulence in the Middle East, he said as youths had a major role as agents of change in the world, governments should get them involved in the political process.