

Newspaper	New Straits Times
Date	20 November 2015



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak overseeing the final preparations for the 27th Asean Summit and Related Summits at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre yesterday. Pic by Yazit Razali

NST - 20/11/2015

Najib hopes summits are fruitful

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia strives to create a people-centred Asean that will see all sectors of society involved in Asean's activities said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

In a Facebook posting, he said he was hopeful that the 27th Asean Summit and Related Summits would yield fruitful outcomes during its five days here.

"In the coming days, Malaysia will host Asean heads of state and government as well as world leaders and foreign dignitaries, including (United States) President Barack Obama, (Chinese) Premier Li Keqiang, (Indian) Prime Minister Narendra Modi

and (Russian) Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev for the Asean Summit," he said.

"I look forward to fruitful and positive outcomes from our many multi- and bi-lateral and regional meetings on political, security, environmental and economic issues, foremost being the historic Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the Establishment of the Asean Community," he said prior to a final walkabout at the Kuala Lumpur Convention here yesterday.

Najib, who came to the venue straight from his working trip in Manila, witnessed a full-dress rehearsal and a food-tasting session

for the gala dinner he will be hosting tomorrow.

The summit is historic as it is the last Asean Summit to be held before the full integration of the Asean Economic Community (AEC), which is expected to be launched by year-end.

Once integrated, AEC promises the reduction of tariffs and duties across the 10 Asean nations, thus, making trade and investments smoother.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi visited the venue last night after attending a dinner with Asean foreign ministers.