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## Najib to have bilateral meeting with Xi during Boao Forum

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BOAO: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak will have a bilateral meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping when he attends the Boao Forum here.

Malaysian Ambassador to China Datuk Zainuddin Yahya said Najib's working visit - his first to this annual forum - was highly significant to Malaysia-China relations.

Najib, he said, would meet with Xi

at the Boao State Guest House today before attending a dinner hosted by the president.

"This special arrangement testifies the close personal ties between Najib and Xi," he said.

Malaysia and China, which celebrated their 40th anniversary of diplomatic ties last year, are set to achieve US\$160bil (RM586.4bil) in bilateral trade by 2017.

Both countries also agreed to upgrade bilateral ties to a comprehensive strategic partnership, cover-

ing areas of trade, education, financial services, infrastructure development and defence.

Zainuddin said Najib would also meet with Netherlands Prime Minister Mark Rutte and Kazakhstan Prime Minister Karim Massimov on the sidelines of Boao.

The Prime Minister is expected to arrive at the coastal city of Haikou in the southern Hainan province today for the forum.

He is scheduled to speak at the opening plenary of the Boao Forum

for Asia Annual Conference 2015 tomorrow, which is themed "Asia's New Future: Towards a Community of Common Destiny".

Zainuddin said the focus of Najib's speech would be tailored to the theme.

"He is likely to relate the theme with the vision of establishing the Asean Community by the end of the year, as Malaysia is the chair of Asean this year," he said.

Former Prime Minister Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, who is one

of the directors of the Boao Forum, will join his fellow directors in a dialogue on Global Economic Outlook 2015 today.

The Boao Forum was formally inaugurated in February 2001 in the aftermath of the 1998 Asian Financial Crisis.

With the guiding principle of win-win and common development, it promotes regional economic integration and serves as a platform for global leaders to address pressing issues in Asia and emerging markets.