

Newspaper	NEW STRAITS TIMES
Date	9 NOVEMBER 2016

Learning from our economic model

NST- 9/11/2016

PUTRAJAYA: Turkmenistan has expressed interest to learn about Malaysia's economic model, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said yesterday.

"We welcome Turkmenistan to send a technical team for an in-depth study on our experience in Malaysia," Najib said during a joint press conference with Turkmenistan President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov.

He said Malaysia was ready to share knowledge.

Najib had, in 2010, launched the New Economic Model, a plan aimed at transforming the country into a high-income nation and making it more competitive, productive and investor-friendly.

He said both countries understood the need to build stronger cooperation and collaboration in many sectors.

"In view of the uncertain global economy, the two countries and the two regions — Central Asia and Asean — should collaborate even closer together to overcome the strong economic headwinds."

Recognising the huge economic potential from a partnership between both countries, the leaders

agreed to create conducive and favourable conditions in economic, trade, finance and other fields to further promote better cooperation.

Najib also confirmed Malaysia's participation in the 5th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games, which will be held in Turkmenistan next year.

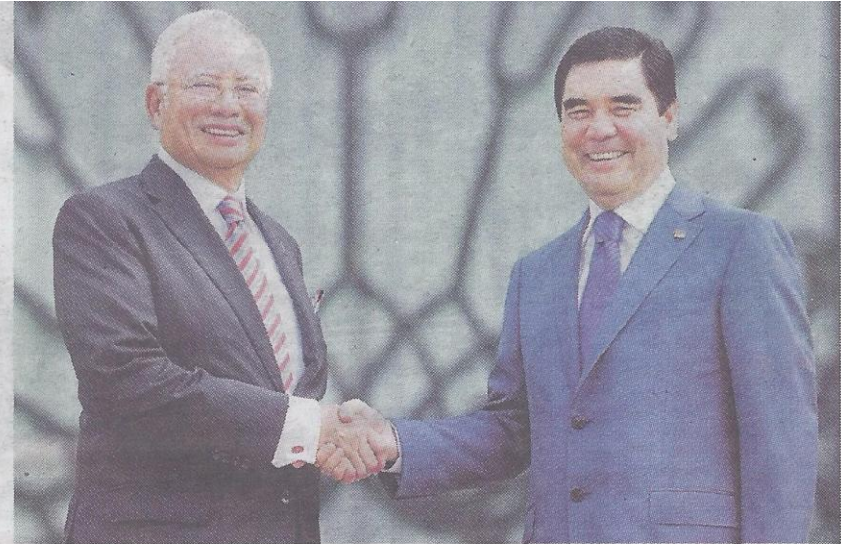
"I am confident the visit by Berdimuhamedov and the agreements and memoranda of understanding (MoUs) we have signed during his visit will add a lot of impetus to our bilateral ties.

"I look forward to working very closely with my brother and the government, now and in the future, and I am confident our existing brotherly ties will enhance with his visit."

Both leaders also emphasised the importance of enhancing bilateral cooperation in transportation, culture, education, tourism and sports to strengthen relations.

Berdimuhamedov said Turkmenistan and Malaysia shared a mutual desire to promote peace and stability in Central Asia and the Asia-Pacific region.

"Turkmenistan and Malaysia are staunch supporters of fair and international relations in the devel-



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak greeting Turkmenistan President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov in Putrajaya yesterday.
Pic by Fariz Iswadi Ismail

opment of global politics, as reflected in the United Nations, Organisation of Islamic Cooperation and the Non-Aligned Movement."

He said the two countries had consolidated efforts to counter new challenges and threats to international security, including in the fight against terrorism, extremism, transnational crime and trafficking.

He extended an invitation to the Malaysian delegation to participate in the Global Sustainable Transport Conference, which will be hosted by the United Nations in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, on Nov 26 and 27.

Najib, in a joint statement, said he accepted the invitation and the

dates of the visit would be decided later. He has visited Turkmenistan twice, in 2011 and 2014.

Earlier, the leaders witnessed the signing ceremony of a protocol agreement and an MoU.

The protocol amendment agreement on economic, scientific and technical cooperation between Malaysia and Turkmenistan was signed by Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Anifah Aman and his Turkmenistan counterpart, Rashid Meredov.

An MoU on sports cooperation was signed between Youth and Sports Minister Khairy Jamaluddin and Turkmenistan's Chairman of State Committee for Sport, Toyly Komekov.