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Najib to hold talks with leaders at Bangkok summit

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DIALOGUE:

PM's participation shows Malaysia's commitment to regional cooperation

BANGKOK

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak arrived here last night to attend the 2nd Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) Summit, which will be held for two days from today.

The executive jet carrying Najib and his wife, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, landed at the Don Mueang Royal Thai Air Force Base at 10.40pm (11.40pm Malaysian time).

They were greeted by Thai Transport Minister Arkhom Termpittaya-paisith, who was representing the Thai government, Malaysian ambassador to Thailand Datuk Nazirah Hussain and embassy officials.



ROSHIDI
ABU SAMAH

Wisma Putra said Najib was accompanied by senior officials from the Prime Minister's Office.

"Under the theme 'One Asia, Diverse Strengths', ACD member countries' leaders are expected to review the progress of the implementation of decisions made at the first summit in Kuwait in 2012, and deliberate on ACD's direction.

"They will have a meeting with business leaders from member states, during which business leaders will present the outcome of the ACD Connect Business Forum 2016 held on Oct 9," it said.

ACD member states' leaders, it said, were expected to adopt three outcome documents — the ACD Vision for Asia Cooperation 2030, Bangkok Declaration of the 2nd ACD

Summit and ACD Statement on Reigniting Growth Through Partnerships for Connectivity.

The documents were expected to reinforce ACD member states' commitment to enhance future cooperation and partnerships, and utilising the advantages inherent in Asia more effectively, it said.

It said said Najib was scheduled to deliver Malaysia's statement at the plenary session tomorrow.

"Malaysia plays an active role in ACD and has taken on the role as co-prime mover for the education and human resource development priority pillar."

It said as co-prime mover, Malaysia had established the Asia e University (AeU) in Kuala Lumpur in 2007, which facilitates regional cooperation among ACD member states, especially in e-education.

Wisma Putra said Najib would hold bilateral meetings with leaders at the margins of the summit to discuss bilateral and regional issues.

It said Najib's participation reflected Malaysia's continued com-

mitment to strengthen ACD as an effective pan-Asian regional forum.

Nazirah said Malaysia, which was one of ACD's founding members, had been co-prime mover for education and human resource development since the movement's inception in 2002.

"The establishment of AeU is an achievement that we can be proud of."

She said Najib was scheduled to attend a welcoming dinner for heads of state and their spouses, as well as invited delegates and guests, hosted by Thai Prime Minister General Prayuth Chan o Cha at the Royal Thai Navy Convention Hall tonight.

She said Prayuth would open the summit tomorrow at the Thai Foreign Ministry.

ACD is an Asian regional cooperation framework initiated by Thailand in 2002 to consolidate strengths and competitiveness by leveraging Asia's diverse strengths and rich resources.

It comprises 34 member states from all five sub-regions of Asia.