

SOUTH CHINA SEA

PM: MALAYSIA FIRM ON ITS RIGHTS

Country will do its part to maintain regional rules-based order, Anwar tells conference

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Malaysia will protect its sovereignty, rights and interests in the country's Exclusive Economic Zone in the South China Sea.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said despite major power rivalry making its way into the territorial disputes in the sea, Malaysia's position remained firm.

"The militarisation of the maritime region, coupled with the use of grey-zone tactics to rein-

force claims and stymie the lawful exploitation of resources, is neither peaceful nor constructive.

"(And) Malaysia has always advocated for peaceful and constructive settlement of all disputes, in line with international laws' recognised norms and principles, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea," he said in his keynote address at the 36th Asia-Pacific Roundtable organised by the Institute of Strategic and International Studies Malaysia.

Present were Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abdul Kadir and Deputy Investment, Trade and Industry Minister



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim (left) and Institute of Strategic and International Studies Malaysia chairman Professor Dr Mohd Faiz Abdullah fielding questions from the floor at the 36th Asia-Pacific Roundtable in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. PIC BY ASWADI ALIAS

Liew Chin Tong.

Anwar said Malaysia must continue to ride on its good relations with China and the United States to promote a stronger rules-and-norms-based order.

"In our estimation, both China and the US have affirmed their commitment to it, and it must go

beyond multilateral trade dealings to the realm of a practical geostrategic architecture.

"This order is not based on might or the tendency to ignore the very rules and norms one preaches about when it is inconvenient, else it is unconducive and hypocritical.

"Hence, it must be an order based on fairness, respect and understanding, compassion and international law.

"There must also be a serious effort to give effect to these grandiloquent terms and Malaysia will do our part to promote this consensus."