

## COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

# MALAYSIA, JAPAN UPGRADE TIES

Japan has been an important partner in diplomacy, trade and investment, says Anwar

TOKYO

**P**RIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida yesterday

announced that Malaysia and Japan have elevated their ties to a comprehensive strategic partnership.

This was announced via a joint statement before both leaders witnessed the signing and exchange of notes of the official Se-



**HAZWEEN  
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curity Assistance Grant Aid by Japan, which would provide monitoring and surveillance equipment to Malaysia.

Anwar, who is on a five-day work visit here for the Asean-Japan Commemorative Summit, said Malaysia recognised Japan's pivotal role in the development of Asean, with consistent progress over the last few decades.

Anwar said Japan had proven to be an important partner not

just for Malaysia but also Asean.

"You have come to visit (Malaysia) a number of times. I value your friendship and I am impressed by your commitment, not only to Malaysia but to the (Asean) region, too," he told his Japanese counterpart.

"Japan has been a longstanding friend... very important in terms of collaboration and in a number of issues (such as diplomacy). But more so in trade and investment. We recognise the important role that Japan has played as a partner."

Anwar also referenced Kishida's most recent visit to Malaysia, where the Japanese prime minister had sampled durian during a tea event dubbed "durian diplomacy".

"As a rejoinder, your durian diplomacy went viral around the region."



*Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim having a light moment with his Japanese counterpart, Fumio Kishida, ahead of a bilateral meeting in Tokyo yesterday, BERNAMA PIX*

Anwar and Kishida also witnessed the signing and exchange of Memorandum of Cooperation on Space Development and Application between the Malaysian Space Agency and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency.

The signings were performed by Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan on behalf of Malaysia.

Anwar also met the top executives of three major Japanese corporations — Rohm Wako, Toshiba and Mitsui & Co — and held a roundtable with captains of industry.

Anwar will join other Asean

leaders for the Asean-Japan Commemorative Summit on Sunday and the Asia Zero Emission Community Summit, which is working towards a regional benchmark in managing emissions.

Malaysia, Anwar said, wanted to enhance economic, investment and trade cooperation with Japan.

The Asean-Japan Commemorative Summit will run until tomorrow.

It is being organised as part of the 50th anniversary of Asean-Japan friendship and cooperation.