



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim at the Asean-Japan Commemorative Summit in Tokyo yesterday. With him are Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan (second from left) and Investment, Trade and Industry Minister Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Tengku Abdul Aziz (right). BERNAMA PIC

CALL FOR MULTILATERAL ACTION

'EMPOWER PEOPLE TO FACE GLOBAL POLYCRISIS'

Asean, Japan must cooperate to tackle pressing world issues, Anwar tells regional summit

TOKYO

MALAYSIA calls for more multilateral efforts to empower people to become

more resilient in the face of a global polycrisis.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, in his speech on the first day of the Asean-Japan Commemorative Summit yesterday, emphasised the need for co-operation between Asean member states and Japan to tackle pressing issues, ranging from regional security to public health and disaster management.

The summit was chaired by Indonesian President Joko Widodo, who opened the meeting alongside host Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida.

Anwar called for more efforts to combat cyber crimes in an expanding digital landscape.

He underscored the importance of the Asean-Japan partnership in overcoming challenges and asked member states



HAZWEEN HASSAN

to uphold humanitarian and international laws in the current geopolitical climate.

"Given the global polycrisis and growing complexity in our region's strategic environment, the Asean-Japan partnership in navigating these challenges is more crucial than ever."

He proposed four areas of co-operation in Asean: public health, climate action, disaster management and people-to-people exchanges.

Citing the Covid-19 pandemic, he said Asean nations and Japan must learn from that experience and remain vigilant against future health crises.

He said the regional bloc was making progress towards operationalising the Asean Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases.

He asked member states and Japan to deploy researchers to the centre.

"We should bring together researchers from diverse back-

grounds, experience and know-how, to form a team that could better address future health challenges."

He said this in his remarks at the third agenda, themed "Heart to Heart Partners Across Generations".

On climate action, he emphasised the need for collaboration between Asean and Japan to advance regional and national mitigation and adaptation strategies.

"Delaying these risks will worsen the irreversible impact of climate change, a reality already experienced by some," he said.

On the outcomes of the 28th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28), Anwar encouraged Japan to increase its commitment to the loss and damage fund beyond the initial US\$10 million.

He highlighted the importance of helping developing countries transition to clean energy in a just, orderly and equitable manner.

He pointed out the increasing frequency of extreme weather events in the region, such as droughts, floods and landslides, and emphasised the necessity of disaster management.

The summit ends today with discussions on the Asia Zero Emission Community initiative to address climate change.