

# RM6.56B IN INVESTMENT PLEDGES FROM JAPAN'

Anwar touts trip as a success, as Japan firms' expansion in Malaysia to see 2,000 jobs generated

TOKYO

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's inaugural working visit to Japan for the Asean-Japan Commemorative Summit can be counted as a huge success, attracting RM6.56 billion in potential investments.

Adding to the RM23 billion a Malaysian trade mission secured in June, this year's investment tally from Japan could hit RM30 billion.

Based on meetings with various parties, including Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, Anwar said Malaysia-Japan cooperation in terms of investment, trade, education and technology was moving up a notch.

"The visit to Japan has been a success... to be proud of, managing to attract potential investments of RM6.56 billion," he told Malaysian media.

Three Japanese corporations with operations in Malaysia — Rohm Wako, NEC Co Ltd and Mitsui & Co — had also conveyed their willingness to increase investments, during one-on-one meetings on Saturday, said Anwar. He said this could create at least 1,800 jobs.

"I'm not quite sure of the exact numbers, but this would be around 1,800 to 2,000 more jobs from the expansion. And they're happy with our workforce. They like our people," he said.

Anwar described the meeting with fellow Asean leaders and host Japan over the past three days as fruitful.

In particular, he highlighted the success of the bilateral meeting with Japan ahead of the summit, calling it a continuation of strong ties with the nation.

Anwar said Japanese press coverage of Malaysia in the past several months had been very positive, hinting that it had attracted some investors to the country.

"I was speaking to some (Japanese) company representatives earlier, and they told me



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim with other Asean leaders at the Asia Zero Emission Community Leaders Meeting in Tokyo yesterday. BERNAMA PIC



HAZWEEN HASSAN

that that press coverage of Malaysia in Japan has been very positive. Something they've never seen before," he said.

Anwar said this after a high-tea gathering at the Imperial Hotel here with about 450 Malaysian students and expatriates.

In conjunction with the summit, Japan also convened the Asia Zero Emission Community (Azec) energy initiative meeting, where regional leaders pledged fresh cooperation on climate action and improving cybersecurity standards.

On tensions with China in the South China Sea that Japan had referenced, Anwar said Malaysia maintained a neutral stance.

"We have been consistent in our diplomacy with Japan (and other similar ally nations). We don't interfere in their affairs (with other states)."

Asked if closer ties with Japan would affect Malaysia's relations with China, he said that it would not change anything.

"We're good friends with both. This doesn't change anything with China."

Anwar said Malaysia recognised Japan's role in the development of the Asean region, with consistent progress seen over the last few decades.

The summit also saw Malaysia

and Japan elevating their ties to a comprehensive strategic partnership. Anwar said Japan was an important partner not just for Malaysia but for Asean.

Earlier, Anwar said Azec was a great step forward in fostering cooperation in the region.

He expressed optimism with Japan's commitment towards climate action in a meeting with other Asean leaders on the final day of the summit.

Anwar said Japan's role was crucial as a facilitator for a long-standing platform in energy transition.

He said Malaysia was committed to practical solutions that drove progress, emphasising the delicate balance between climate ambition, sustainability and economic growth.

"Malaysia will continue to pivot on practical solutions that drive progress, balancing climate ambition, sustainability and economic growth as we address the energy trilemma," Anwar said.

He said Malaysia's National Energy Transition Roadmap (NETR), launched in August, drew inspiration from initiatives proposed in Azec.

"We believe that energy transition should be just, inclusive and equitable. The way forward includes a progressive cooperation and collaboration model.

"Addressing challenges and opportunities in clean energy, while ensuring a just transition, requires a broad support, particularly on financing, incentives, technology and infrastructure."

Anwar said Malaysia welcomed continuous support and cooperation from nations like Japan, Australia and others, as they accelerated their energy transition.