

Asean urged to tap Japan cybersecurity expertise

TOKYO: Malaysia encourages greater Asean-Japan collaboration to elevate the standard of cybersecurity in the Southeast Asian region by sharing best practices, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

He said with the expansion of the digital landscape, cyber threats are increasing exponentially.

"Together, we must prioritise the protection of our citizens from cyber exploitation related to terrorism, trafficking-in-persons, and various other cyber and transnational crimes."

Bloc must prioritise protection of citizens against exploitation related to terrorism, people-trafficking and virtual, transnational crimes, says prime minister

He was speaking at the Asean-Japan Commemorative Summit, themed "Review of Asean-Japan relations!"

Recognising Japan's expertise in cyberspace, Anwar said Japan could

share with Asean its knowledge and skills, focusing on areas such as intellectual property protection, data privacy and threat intelligence.

He added that over the years, Asean-Japan relations had

grown exponentially.

"To mark 50 years of relations, we established the Asean-Japan Comprehensive Strategic Partnership."

The Asean-Japan Commemorative Summit being held from Dec 16 to today serves as the culmination of commemorative activities for 2023, celebrating the "50th Year of Asean-Japan Friendship and Cooperation."

The commemorative events began with symposiums in Jakarta, Indonesia, in February and Tokyo in March, Bernama reported.

Other events included the Asean-Japan Business Week in June, the Asean-Japan Special Meeting of Justice Ministers in July and the Asean-Japan Tourism Ministers' Special Dialogue in October.

Leaders from the 10-member grouping, except from Myanmar, have arrived in Tokyo for the summit.

Anwar was the fifth Asean leader to arrive at the venue, with the first being Timor Leste Premier Xanana Gusmao. All the leaders were greeted by Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida.

The half-day event at Hotel Okura is scheduled to end with the adoption of a "Joint Vision Statement and Implementation Plan"

Also at the summit are Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan, Foreign Ministry secretary-general Datuk Seri Amran Mohamed Zin, Malaysian Ambassador to Japan Datuk Shahril Effendi Abd Ghany and Foreign Ministry Asean-Malaysia National Secretariat Director-General Datuk Zanariah Zainal Abidin.



Kishida (left) greeting Anwar upon arrival at Hotel Okura yesterday. -AFPIC