

Joint role in resolving Palestine-Israel conflict

TOKYO: Asean and Japan can collectively play a significant role within the global community to achieve a peaceful and durable solution to the Palestine-Israel conflict, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

He said all Asean member states and Japan had voted in favour of the United Nations General Assembly resolution on Dec 12, which had demanded a humanitarian ceasefire, humanitarian access and the release of hostages.

"Moving ahead, we should work together to have these demands realised."

Anwar was speaking of the destruction in Gaza caused by Israel,

drawing parallels with the atomic bombs dropped in Hiroshima and Nagasaki during World War II.

His remarks were made during the first agenda, "Review of Asean-Japan Relations" and the second agenda, "Partners for Peace and Stability and Regional and International Issues" at the Asean-Japan Commemorative Summit yesterday, Bernama reported.

Several Asean leaders, including Thai Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin and Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh, also voiced their concerns over Gaza and the need for an immediate ceasefire in their address during the summit.

Anwar said while Asean worked

to ensure that the region remained peaceful and stable, it could not ignore security threats from other parts of the world.

He added that the world had been witnessing the marginalisation of the United Nations system as well as the disregard for international law and international humanitarian law.

"We must not allow this to continue. It is important that Asean and Japan work together with like-minded countries, to strengthen multilateralism and uphold the rules-based international order.

"The impact of a breakdown in this world order on all of us is too terrifying to contemplate."

Anwar also spoke on nuclear

weapons, which Malaysia views as detrimental to mankind.

"Malaysia strongly believes that prolonged existence of nuclear weapons poses risks in their use, either deliberately or by accident."

In the context of the region, the Southeast Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty serves as the disarmament and non-proliferation instrument in the Asean region, which is in line with Article VII of the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

In noting Japan's Hiroshima Action Plan, Anwar said Malaysia believes that Asean and Japan could explore cooperation in disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful use of nuclear energy.