

Malaysia lauds Japan's backing of Asean initiatives, including on Myanmar

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia is pleased with the commitment shown by Japan to supporting Asean initiatives, including the Five-Point Consensus (5PC).

The 5PC, which was agreed to in 2021 following the coup that

ousted the democratically elected Myanmar government on Feb 1 last year, are: immediate cessation of violence; holding dialogues with key stakeholders; appointment of a special envoy to facilitate mediation; for the

delegation to visit and meet stakeholders in Myanmar; and to allow Asean to provide humanitarian aid to people in Myanmar.

"I am pleased with the commitment by Japan to support Asean initiatives, including the agreement with the 5PC consensus with regard to Myanmar."

Anwar said this at a press conference with his Japanese counterpart, Fumio Kishida.

Kishida said any attempt to change the status quo by force, regardless of location in the world, would not be tolerated.

He gave his commitment to providing his government's cooperation on the issue.

"It was confirmed that on responses to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea), including on nuclear mis-

siles and the abduction (of Japanese citizens to be trained as spies for North Korea), and the Myanmar situation, close cooperation will continue.

"Further, (we discussed) the importance of maintaining the high standard of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership and nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation."

He said they exchanged views on the situation in the East China and South China seas and the aggression against Ukraine.

Kishida is on his inaugural visit to Malaysia since taking over as prime minister.

The meeting, he said, was to boost ties and to work together to ensure peace and stability for the international community.

He said talks on bilateral ties were centred on security and

defence cooperation, economy and human resources development.

"On security and defence cooperation, Anwar and I have reaffirmed (our commitment) to strengthen strategic communication and accelerate the coordination for the implementation of the Official Security Assistance."

He said both countries agreed on joint exercises between coast guard agencies.

Launched in April, Japan's OSA framework is aimed at raising the security capabilities of developing countries, and the beneficiaries are military forces.

The framework, announced in last December's revised National Security Strategy, was initially aimed to provide equipment, supplies and infrastructure development assistance to partner countries, mostly in the Asia-Pacific.