



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim speaking to United States Secretary of State Antony Blinken at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in San Francisco, California, the United States, on Friday.
REUTERS PIC

PM HAPPY APEC OBJECTIVES ACHIEVED

Malaysia made its stand on war in Gaza, generated RM8.33 billion in investments

SAN FRANCISCO

MALAYSIA has made its stand loud and clear on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the humanitarian crisis unfolding in Gaza, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said, adding that he had the ears of United States President Joe Biden when the issue was raised at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) summit here.

Anwar said there was stony silence all round when he talked about the unfairness the Palestinians was suffering and how the world could not continue turning a blind eye to the humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

"We had the opportunity to articulate our position and discuss the issue... not in a combative mode but in an engaging way.

"We expressed our views and I spoke about the need for fairness and consistency in our actions in dealing with such a crisis.

"I took the opportunity to relate to President Biden about how he had made a very strong stand when I was unjustly abused and thrown into prison previously.



SHARANJIT SINGH

"I told him that I am appealing to him to adopt the same principle to stop the indiscriminate killing of women, children and other innocent people in Gaza.

"I could see there was stone silence in the room when I spoke about this."

He said at the end of the day, Apec leaders came up with the Golden Gate Declaration, while Malaysia, along with Indonesia and Brunei, issued a joint statement calling for an immediate, durable and sustained truce leading to a cessation of hostilities in the Gaza Strip.

Malaysia, Indonesia and Brunei decided to issue the statement following the chair's decision to issue a separate statement on the aggression in Ukraine.

Anwar said this in his wrap up press conference following the conclusion of the Apec summit yesterday.

On the economic success of his trip, Anwar said he was happy to note that the trade and investment mission to the US had generated at least RM8.33 billion.

At a press conference earlier yesterday, Investment, Trade and

Industry Minister Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Tengku Abdul Aziz announced that companies which would be investing in Malaysia included Abbott Laboratories, Mondelez International, Amstead Rail, Hematogenix, PerkinElmer, Ford Motor Company, Boeing, Amazon Web Services, Enovix and Lam Research.

Anwar also met tech giants like Google, Enovix Cooperation, Microsoft, TikTok and TPG, leading to commitments of up to RM54.72 billion for them to further expand in Malaysia.

The Apec summit was chaired by Biden, who had a much-anticipated meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping amid rising tension between the superpowers.

Anwar, who is finance minister, said he was happy the two leaders had met and opened the doors of engagement.

"This is very important for the economic stability of this region."

The US and Malaysia are among the 12 founding members of Apec, along with Australia, Brunei, Canada, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Mexico and Papua New Guinea joined in 1993. Chile acceded in 1994. In 1998, Peru, Russia and Vietnam joined, bringing the full membership to 21.

Page 1 pic: A Palestinian carrying the body of a victim killed in Israeli strikes outside a hospital in Khan Younis, Gaza Strip, yesterday.