

## ASEAN-PACIFIC COOPERATION

# BUILDING ON MALAYSIA-PERU PARTNERSHIP

### PM's visit marks commitment to greater trade, security and social development ties

**D**ATUK Seri Anwar Ibrahim's official visit to Peru marks a strengthened commitment to enhancing the strategic relationship between Malaysia and the Latin American country.

This is particularly through Malaysia's support for Peru's status as an "Asean Development Partner".

The move reflects Malaysia's aspirations to strengthen Asean-Pacific cooperation ahead of next year, when it assumes chairmanship of the regional bloc.

In a joint statement released by Anwar and Peru President Dina Ercilia Boluarte Zegarra, the latter expressed appreciation for Malaysia's support and emphasised Peru's commitment to continue exploring cooperation in areas of mutual interest with Asean member states.

Both leaders stressed the importance of strengthening this relationship through the Asean-Peru Development Partnership Committee, enabling greater cooperation in areas such as trade, security and social development.

As an economic initiative, both countries have signed memoranda of understanding in the halal, agriculture and gastronomy sectors.

Malaysia is offering assistance to Peru in developing a halal product ecosystem recognised by Malaysian authorities.

This is through a proposal to establish a dedicated Halal Economic Zone at Chancay Port, which is expected to become a logistics hub and halal supply chain centre for the Latin American market.

Malaysia has been invited to participate in the development of the logistics, industrial and technology hub on the central coast of Peru, which is set to be launched alongside the new port.

From a trade perspective, both countries have agreed to accelerate the introduction of new products to each other's markets, as well as promote responsible, sustainable and in-



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clusive investments.

Trade relations between Malaysia and Peru have shown significant improvement, surpassing pre-Covid-19 levels and continuing to grow in line with trade agreements, such as the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership.

In terms of security, Malaysia and Peru support cooperation between their respective enforcement agencies in addressing transnational crimes such as human and drug trafficking, money laundering and cybercrime.

This initiative is seen as crucial in ensuring more sustainable regional security.

The visit also aims to strengthen cultural and educational ties between the two countries.

Malaysia has offered two scholarships to Peruvian students to pursue their studies here in 2025, as part of efforts to promote knowledge exchange and deepen people-to-people relations between the nations.

Additionally, Malaysia hopes to attract more tourists from Peru during Visit Malaysia Year 2026.

Boluarte praised Malaysia's leadership, expressing hope that it will promote inclusivity and sustainability in line with the Asean Community Vision 2045.

Malaysia, meanwhile, expressed its appreciation to Peru for its role in leading the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation this year.

Anwar's visit has also seen him receiving Peru's highest honour, the El Sol del Peru (The Sun of Peru) with the grade of "Grand Cross".