

LEGACY

PM: APEC MUST DRIVE GLOBAL CHANGE, NOT JUST ADAPT

Anwar says forum has power to shape a future defined by resilience, equality and innovation

KAMARULZAIIDI KAMIS
LIMA
news@nst.com.my

Asia-pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) members need to set the standard for an inclusive, innovative and resilient region rather than just following global trends.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said the discussion of the pact this time was most likely to shape the future of millions of people.

"We stand on the brink of change, with the power to shape a future defined by resilience, equality and innovation.

"Let this (Apec) Summit be remembered for turning aspirations into achievements and declarations into actions.

"Our legacy will not be written based on the promises we make but by the impact we leave behind. We are not here just to discuss, we are here to (also) act and bring change."

Anwar said this when delivering Malaysia's Intervention during the 31st Apec Economic Leaders' Meeting (AELM) here.

Meanwhile, Anwar said food security was an urgent issue that affected every economy in the Asia-Pacific region.

Thus, he said, Apec could build success by supporting a comprehensive framework that aimed to halve food waste by 2030, while promoting sustainable agricultural practices.

"The climate crisis demands immediate and united action. Apec should harness the spirit of innovation to drive collective effort towards clean energy, technological progress and sustainable practices."

Apec is a regional economic forum that was formed in 1989 to promote free trade and benefit from increased connectivity in the Asia-Pacific region.

On Saturday, Bernama reported Anwar also had a brief meeting before the last day of the summit with his counterpart from New Zealand, Christopher Luxon.

"We are in agreement to boost our countries' relationship through cooperation in various sectors, especially increasing trade and investment by 50 per cent by 2030.

"We also discussed cooperation in education, information technology, engineering, agriculture and the halal industry," Anwar said on the sidelines of AELW here.

New Zealand is Malaysia's second largest trading partner in the Australasia region, with a trade value of US\$2.54 billion last year.

Both nations aim to increase bilateral trade by 50 per cent by 2030, especially in the high-value manufacturing and digital economy sectors.

Apec is an intergovernmental forum for 21 member economies in the Pacific Rim that promotes free trade in the Asia-Pacific region. It represents nearly 40 per cent of the world's population, almost half of global trade, and more than 60 per cent of the global economy.

Malaysia is among 12 founding members of Apec. The others are Australia, Brunei, Canada, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, New Zealand, the United States, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

"Let this (Apec) Summit be remembered for turning aspirations into achievements and declarations into actions."