Malaysia, Brazil to explore Asean, BRICS, prospects

RIO DE JANEIRO: Malaysia and Brazil have agreed to bolster bilateral ties and explore new opportunities through the Asean and BRICS platforms.

This move aims to expand strategic cooperation and enhance both nations' influence on the global stage.

The agreement was reached during a meeting between Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and his Brazilian counterpart, President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva on the sidelines of the G20 Summit, here on Sunday.

The leaders also marked the 65th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries, which are founded on shared values such as peace, cooperation and sustainable development.

In their discussions, both leaders welcomed the potential for collaboration next year when Malaysia will chair Asean, and Brazil will lead BRICS and host COP30.

Malaysia and Brazil also expressed their commitment to supporting a more democratic, transparent and balanced multilateral system that reflects the political and economic realities of the 21st century.

As "megadiverse" nations, Malaysia and Brazil also support the recognition of the Tropical Forest Forever Facility, a mechanism introduced by Brazil at COP28. The two countries aim to collaborate on shaping this mechanism ahead of its launch at COP30 in Belem, Brazil, next year.

In energy, both countries reiterated their support for a just energy transition that considers the needs of developing nations, while also exploring the potential of biofuels to reduce carbon emissions in the transport sector.

On the geopolitical front, Malaysia and Brazil expressed concern over the ongoing conflict in Gaza, calling for an immediate ceasefire and demanding humanitarian access for the Palestinian people.

To boost their partnership, both leaders welcomed continued cooperation through the Asean-Brazil Sectoral Dialogue Partnership, which provides a framework for practical initiatives across various fields.

Anwar also invited Lula to attend the 47th Asean Summit and Related Summits in Kuala Lumpur next year, as a special guest of Malaysia.

The invitation was warmly accepted by the Brazilian president.