

Move to prevent data leaks and misuse

PETALING JAYA: The government will enhance regulations and laws to prevent data leaks and misuse, says Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim after discussions with tech giant Google.

Anwar, also the Finance Minister, highlighted the importance of bolstering the artificial intelligence (AI) and data centre ecosystem.

He instructed relevant ministries to take immediate action to control the impacts of these technologies, Bernama reported.

Anwar made these remarks following a meeting with Google's delegation during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) 2024 Summit on Thursday.

Earlier, Anwar stated that the Malaysian government acknowledges the critical role of bridging the digital divide for fair development in an AI-driven world.

He mentioned that Malaysia is capable of attracting significant investments in this field but must ensure that its growing economy remains competitive, equitable, and sustainable.

To succeed in this rapidly developing economy, AI is seen as a key element for digital transformation.

However, there are concerns

that need addressing, such as the digital divide.

He said the government is developing a framework for AI-related innovation and inclusion.

"I also emphasised the need to train and improve the skills of young professionals in AI to fulfil industry needs and accelerate progress and digitisation," said Anwar.

"There is also a need for a multi-faceted approach to apply AI, including investments in green energy, water conservation, and reforming bureaucratic regulations to be more responsive to investors."

He added that although there will be disruptions from AI, full focus will be given to education and training to create the right conditions for future success.

Anwar is on an official visit to Peru, which includes his participation in the 31st Apec Economic Leaders' Meeting from Nov 14 to 16.

It is his first visit to South America since becoming Prime Minister in 2022.

Lima, Peru's capital with a population of 11.36 million, hosted the Apec meeting for the third time, following previous gatherings in 2008 and 2016.



All smiles: Anwar with Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto (centre) in a group photo with others during the Apec Business Advisory Council High Level Economic Dialogue in Lima. - Bernama

Malaysia is one of the 12 founding economies of Apec.

Anwar also called for stronger partnerships between governments, industries and communities to unlock opportunities in the digital space, ensuring no one is left behind in the age of fast-paced digital advancement.

He emphasised the need for Malaysia to work together through Asean on matters such as the Asean green initiative and the

joint digital agenda to complement each country's strengths and address common challenges.

"Malaysia is committed to driving sustainable growth, including during the chairmanship of Asean in 2025.

"I also called for stronger partnerships between governments, industries and communities to unlock opportunities in the digital space, ensuring no one is left behind in the age of fast-paced

digital advancements," he said in a post on X after attending the "Opportunities and Challenges in the AI Revolution" forum session at the Apec CEO Summit.