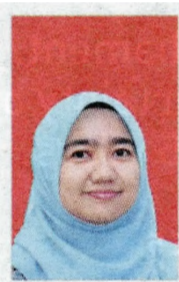


MALAYSIA AT THE HELM AS ASEAN CHAIR 2025

Theme of inclusivity and sustainability reflects aspiration for shared progress by group, says PM



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MALAYSIA has selected the theme “Inclusivity and Sustainability” to steer its leadership as it takes over Asean chairmanship next year.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said the theme reflected Asean’s aspiration for shared progress, ensuring that no member was left behind.

“The year 2025 will be a momentous chapter for Asean, rich with significance and promise. We will mark the 10th anniversary of the Asean Community’s founding, a milestone in our collective journey and with it, we will embrace a new landmark — the Asean Community Vision 2045 — charting the course for our shared future for the next two decades.

“Malaysia has chosen the theme ‘Inclusivity and Sustainability’. It reflects our aspiration for truly shared progress, ensuring that no one is left behind. It conveys our hope that the steps we take today will endure in the long run. It underscores our determination to keep the future firmly in sight as we move forward.

“At all times our actions and decisions will be guided by the principle of consensus.

“Together, we will reaffirm our commitment to building an open, inclusive and rules-based regional architecture,” he said at the handing-over ceremony of the chairmanship from Laos to Malaysia here.

Anwar officially received the chairmanship from Laos Prime Minister Sonexay Siphandone



Civil servants in Kuala Lumpur listening to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim speak at the closing ceremony of the 44th and 45th Asean Summit and Related Summits in Vientiane, Laos, yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

during the event, marking the transition for Malaysia to lead Asean next year.

The logo for Malaysia’s chairmanship was also unveiled. It is inspired by the shape of the country’s national flower, the hibiscus, and includes the national colours of all of Asean member nations.

Anwar was speaking to leaders from the other nine Asean member nations, as well as dialogue partners, at the end of the three-day 44th and 45th Asean Summit and Related Summits held since Wednesday.

There were also separate meetings between Asean leaders and the bloc’s dialogue partners.

This included the 19th East Asia Summit (EAS) involving Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, Russia, South Korea and the United States.

Meanwhile, Anwar reaffirmed Malaysia’s commitment to upholding Asean’s core values and priorities, emphasising that under its chairmanship, the bloc will continue to maintain Southeast Asia as a peaceful, stable and prosperous region.

“Asean will be unflinching in safeguarding Southeast Asia as a zone of peace, stability, and shared prosperity. The spirit of consensus will prevail within the grouping, and 2025 will be a momentous chapter for Asean, rich with significance and promise.”

He also congratulated Laos for successfully completing its chairmanship and expressed his appreciation for their splendid stewardship and unwavering commitment.

He said he looked forward to their support, and also from the Asean secretary-general, secretariat, leaders and His Majesty the Sultan of Brunei.

“As we strengthen the region internally, we will continue to explore and broaden our economic partnerships beyond our borders. The convening of the Asean-Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) + China Summit in 2025 will achieve exactly this.”

He also added that the future of Asean must include Timor Leste, whose inclusion would expand the region’s economy and well-being.

“Asean’s journey began nearly six decades ago, inspired by a vision of peace, stability and prosperity.

“Today, Asean stands strong, ready to embrace the future with confidence.

“The future of Asean must include Timor-Leste, whose inclusion will expand our region’s economy and contribute to fulfilling our grand vision.”

This is the fifth time Malaysia is assuming the chairmanship of Asean in the history of the regional bloc after it held the post in 1977, 1997, 2005 and 2015.

Malaysia latest chairmanship of Asean will officially begin on Jan 1. **Additional reporting by Lylia Marsya Iskandar**

Page 1 pic: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim being handed a gavel by Laos Prime Minister Sonexay Siphandone in Vientiane yesterday to signify Malaysia’s chairmanship of Asean next year.