

# M'sia aiming to be leading AI-driven nation in Asean

> Country would also be champion for forward looking and transformative digital policies, says PM

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has announced that Malaysia will forge partnerships with industry leaders and enhance cooperation with stakeholders to position itself as a leading artificial intelligence (AI) driven nation in Asean.

He emphasised that digitalisation in Asean is one of Malaysia's priorities as the country prepares to assume the chair of the regional group.

"The issue of digitalisation and networks is not only for Malaysia but for the entire region. We should be able to listen and engage with the Google team to explore ways to expedite and accelerate this (digitalisation) process," he said during his official speech at Google's groundbreaking ceremony for its US\$2 billion (RM8.3 billion) data centre and cloud region in

Elmina Business Park Selangor yesterday.

Anwar added that from a regional perspective, Malaysia would position itself as a champion for forward-looking and transformative digital policies.

He said this approach aims to foster a regulatory environment that encourages technological advancement and nurtures cross-border collaboration, Bernama reported.

"I am encouraged that a global tech company like Google recognises the potential of our nation and is determined to contribute to our growth in a sincere and environmentally responsible manner.

"I cannot overstate this. We are not just looking to attract any data centre investment, we want partners who share our values towards a sustainable future."

Meanwhile, Malaysian High Commissioner to India Datuk Muzafar Shah Mustafa said Anwar's recent visit to New Delhi has provided a fresh impetus to Malaysia-India relations as the two countries are looking to grow bilateral trade by 25% in the next two years.

He said the visit "marked a significant milestone" as bilateral ties were raised to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in August.

"Our trade, which reached close to US\$20

billion (RM83.5 billion) in 2023, is set to grow further as we work towards a target of US\$25 billion (RM104 billion) in the next two years," he said at the Malaysia National Day reception in New Delhi on Monday.

Muzafar said the establishment of the Malaysia-India Digital Council has created the potential for closer cooperation in areas such as cybersecurity, AI and digital public infrastructure.

The reception was attended by about 300 people, including the heads of Asean diplomatic missions, ambassadors of several countries, government officials and local community members.

The guests also watched a Malaysian traditional cultural performance by a group of students from Universiti Sains Malaysia studying at KLE University in Karnataka in south India.

India External Affairs Ministry secretary (East) Jaideep Mazumdar underlined keen interest on both sides and high-level engagements to strengthen relations, including people-to-people links and tourism.

He encouraged business people in India and Malaysia to take advantage of the growing relationship.



Anwar receiving a memento from Alphabet and Google president and chief investment officer Ruth Porat at the event in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.  
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