

WORKING VISIT

PM: RUSSIA KEY PARTNER FOR GROWTH

**Anwar and Putin
commit to bolster
bilateral ties, share
expertise**

VLADIVOSTOK

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim says he has had wide-ranging and productive talks with President Vladimir Putin during his two-day working visit to Russia.

Anwar and Putin shared their commitment to bolster bilateral relationship and exchanged perspectives on global events.

As Malaysia continues to expand its geoeconomic space and diversify strategic ties, Anwar, who was here for the 9th Eastern Economic Forum (EEF 2024), said Russia would be a key partner that shared its vision for growth, prosperity and development.

From semiconductor and aerospace to agriculture, education and tourism, the potential for both countries to leverage their expertise for the mutual benefit of their people was immense, he added.

Russia, with its sizeable Mus-



**ZURAIMI
ABDULLAH**

lim population, stands at the threshold of enormous potential in Islamic finance.

Anwar was speaking to the Malaysian media before sharing the stage with Putin and Chinese Vice-President Han Zheng at EEF 2024's plenary session to wrap up his visit yesterday.

Anwar and Putin shared the belief that the international community must intensify pressure to end Israel's ruthless genocidal campaigns in Gaza.

He conveyed his view to Putin at a protracted bilateral meeting and working dinner that Russia's war with Ukraine must be stopped immediately and resolved through negotiations.

Anwar thanked Putin for inviting him here and to participate in the BRICS Summit in the Russian city of Kazan from Oct 22 to 24.

He said Putin's personal invitation shows that Malaysia was among the countries prioritised



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim speaking to the Malaysian media ahead of the 9th Eastern Economic Forum 2024's plenary session in Vladivostok yesterday. With him are Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan (left) and Investment, Trade and Industry Minister Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Tengku Abdul Aziz, PIC
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for BRICS membership.

It also marks a major step towards the country's ultimate goal of joining the grouping.

In return, Anwar invited Putin to the Asean Summit. Malaysia is the upcoming chair of the 10-member Southeast Asian grouping.

At the plenary session, Anwar disclosed to the audience that this was his very first visit to Russia.

"More than 50 years ago, when I was still an 'active' youth leader, I flew Aeroflot and transited Moscow Airport on my way to Liege, Belgium, for the Annual Youth Conference.

"We were allowed to disembark only to the transit hotel. So I never got the chance to set foot on Russian soil!

"Therefore, it is a double honour and privilege, finally, to be in Vladivostok, where history blends seamlessly with progress and the vastness of Russia meets the boundless promise of the Asia Pacific," he remarked.

Fielding questions from the floor, he said Malaysia would consider having direct flights to Russia and vice versa.

Anwar said it was essential for Malaysia to build strong ties with Russia and other Global South nations to share in the growth and contribute to a more balanced global order.

Encompassing countries across Asia, Africa and Latin America, the Global South is on a trajectory to play a pivotal role in reshaping the future of the world economy.

Based on recent estimates, the Global South now accounts for roughly 40 per cent of the world's economic output and is home to about 85 per cent of the global population.

By 2030, it is projected that three of the four largest economies will be from the Global South.

"Like Russia, we see the potential in these developing economies, and we are committed to fostering partnerships that can drive mutual prosperity."

In this vein, said Anwar, Malaysia was actively pursuing opportunities in Global South and joining fellow nations that seek to create a new paradigm of development — one that is more inclusive, equitable, sustainable and resilient.