

Malaysia to enhance collaboration with Russia

VLADIVOSTOK (RUSSIA): While agreeing that the true potential of Malaysia-Russia relations has not been fully utilised, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said Malaysia is committed to enhancing its collaboration in all fields with Russia.

"I would certainly look forward to having better relations, personal and governmental collaboration," he said during a bilateral meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin here yesterday.

Anwar is in Russia to attend the 9th Eastern Economic Forum (EEF) from yesterday until tomorrow and is scheduled to address the plenary session of the EEF today.

During the meeting, Anwar also assured Putin that as Asean chairman next year, he will strive to boost the regional grouping's collaboration with Russia in all fields.

"As you know, Asean is always engaged with Russia, and we have open trade focusing on semiconductors, or on some of the related fields.

"Of course, we in Asean, are looking forward to your participation in Asean Summit 2025," he said.

Anwar also acknowledged Russia's enormous potential, saying as the largest country in the world, Russia had shown its determination to undertake various difficulties and survive.

"If you could share this in our collaboration, we will certainly benefit from this experience," he said.

Anwar also took the opportunity to thank Putin personally for meeting him despite his busy schedule, Bernama reported.

"We would, of course, look forward to having effective programmes to follow up, so that the discussions (today) will not end here. I look forward to working with you and your team," he added.

Also present at the bilateral meeting were Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan, Investment, Trade and Industry Minister Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Tengku Aziz, Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Amirudin Shari, Deputy Economy Minister Datuk Hanifah Hajar Taib, Deputy Agriculture and Food Security Minister Datuk Arthur Joseph Kurup and senior government officials.

This is Anwar's first visit to Russia, and his first meeting with Putin since assuming office in November 2022.

On July 28, Anwar said Malaysia has sent an application to Russia to join BRICS following a courtesy call by Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov.

He said Malaysia has sent a letter of application to Russia, the BRICS chairman, to join it and expressed openness to participate as a member country or strategic partner.

> Anwar meets Putin on sidelines of Eastern Economic Forum, extends invitation to attend 2025 Asean Summit



Anwar being greeted by Putin during a bilateral meeting in conjunction with the 9th Eastern Economic Forum yesterday. - **BERNAMAPIC**

On June 18, Anwar also confirmed Malaysia's intention to join BRICS to Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva.

BRICS was established in 2009 as a cooperation platform by Brazil, Russia, India and China, with South Africa joining the group in 2010. On Jan 1, BRICS expanded its

membership to include Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran and the United Arab Emirates.

In 2023, Russia was Malaysia's 8th largest trading partner among European countries, with total bilateral trade increasing 15.6% to RM14.22 billion compared with RM12.3 billion in 2022.