

'PM'S VISIT SOLIDIFIES CHINA-MALAYSIA TIES'

Anwar's attendance at Shanghai summit, Victory Parade' a testament to special bond, says envoy

TIANJIN

MALAYSIA'S participation at the upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Summit (SCO) 2025 exemplifies the close bond it shares with China, said Malaysian ambassador to China Datuk Norman Muhamad.

He said while Malaysia was neither an SCO member state nor holds observer status, it was nevertheless invited to attend the prestigious event.

"Malaysia was invited for two reasons. The first is because of its status as the Asean chair this year.

"The second is due to the very close ties between the two nations," he told Malaysian media in a press conference yesterday ahead of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's visit to China.

Norman said this visit would mark a series of firsts for Malaysia.

Anwar's attendance at the SCO will be a first for a Malaysian prime minister.

He is also set to become the first Malaysian prime minister to attend China's "Victory Parade" to commemorate the end of World War 2, which will be held in Beijing on Sept 3.



NAJMUDDIN NAJIB

"We can see these firsts as a special recognition of the prime minister's leadership."

Norman said Malaysia demonstrated its leadership ability as Asean chair, it organised the Asean-Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)-China Summit 2025 in Kuala Lumpur.

"Amid the uncertain global political situation, the shaping of close regional ties is crucial.

"China believes that Malaysia and Asean can play a major role in strengthening inter-regional ties during these turbulent times.

"In a bilateral context, this visit will also solidify the comprehensive strategic partnership between Malaysia and China."

Anwar will undertake a four-day working visit to Tianjin and Beijing from today until Sept 3.

He will be accompanied by four senior ministers — Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan, Home Minister Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail, Transport Minister Anthony Loke, and International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Tengku Zafrul Abdul Aziz.

Also accompanying the prime minister is his wife, Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail.

This will mark Anwar's fourth

visit to China since taking office. His last visit was in November last year.

"This visit is a manifestation of the close, strategic ties shared between Malaysia and China," said Norman.

The SCO 2025, hosted in the port city of Tianjin, is set to become the largest gathering in the SCO's history, with more than 20 foreign leaders and 10 heads of international organisations expected to attend.

They include Russian President Vladimir Putin, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Also in attendance will be Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Egyptian Prime Minister Mustafa Madbouly, whose nations are SCO dialogue partners.

The SCO was established by China and Russia in 2001 with a focus on security in Central Asia and the wider region.

Norman said the significance of Malaysia-China ties was also evident from the Sept 2 dinner for the prime minister hosted by Premier Li Qiang, on behalf of President Xi Jinping.

"I was informed that Malaysia is the only country which will have a dinner hosted in its honour by the Chinese government during this period."

He said Anwar was scheduled to deliver a speech at the summit.

"The prime minister is expected to share his ideas on forming better regional partnerships with Asean at the forefront."

Norman said Anwar was also expected to meet with other



Malaysian ambassador to China Datuk Norman Muhamad speaking at a press conference in Tianjin yesterday on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's working visit to China. BERNAMA PIC

world leaders on the sidelines of the summit.

Apart from the SCO Summit Plus 2025, the prime minister will also participate in five other official programmes throughout his visit.

On Sept 2, Anwar will pay a courtesy visit to Xi, which would be immediately followed by a bilateral meeting with Li in Beijing.

Norman said Anwar's meeting with Xi would, among others, revolve around the direction of Malaysia-China ties, as well as that of regional nations.

"The prime minister will be highlighting several suggestions on Malaysia and China's partnership. This will not be limited to trade and investment, but will include people-to-people relations."

He said Anwar would also voice his support for the idea of a "Malaysia-China high-level strategic community with a

shared future", raised by Xi during the latter's visit to Malaysia in May.

On Sept 1 and 2, the prime minister is scheduled to meet China's captains of industry and founders of multinational businesses in business dialogues in both Tianjin and Beijing.

Norman said Anwar was scheduled to deliver a lecture titled "Sovereign Independence: Building a Shared Future in Asia" to around 500 people at Tianjin University on Sept 1.

He said the university, established in 1895, was China's oldest modern university and was celebrating its 130th anniversary this year.

"The university also holds the largest number of Malaysian students in Tianjin, numbering 427 people.

"It also has a chemical engineering degree twinning programme with Universiti Malaysia Pahang Al-Sultan Abdullah."