

SINGAPORE: Malaysia and Singapore have reached a key understanding in their ongoing discussions on the Flight Information Region, with both sides agreeing that any future arrangement must ensure smooth and unhindered air traffic movements.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said Malaysia recognises Singapore's need for safe and efficient air flow into the Changi and Seletar airports while Malaysia similarly requires free movement of flights to Sabah and Sarawak.

"Whatever the arrangement, it should not frustrate the free movement of air traffic. If we accept that principle, I think we can move ahead with more certainty," he said at a joint press conference with Singapore Prime Minister Lawrence Wong after the 12th Annual Leaders' Retreat here yesterday.

On maritime boundary issues, Anwar said both nations must work towards an amicable resolution, stressing that the neighbours should pursue progress, Bernama reported.

"I concede, it is more complex, but if we have a clear commitment to try and resolve it, I'm sure we can make progress.

"I've told Prime Minister Lawrence, my colleagues in the Cabinet and the officials that we must work towards an amicable resolution. Even if it is not in full, at least progress in part," he said.

Anwar was accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan, Transport Minister Anthony Loke, Home Minister Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail and Finance Minister II Datuk Seri Amir Hamzah Azizan during the one-day working visit.

Sarawak Premier Tan Sri Abang Johari Abang Openg and Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Onn Hafiz Ghazi were also part of the

M'sia, S'pore find common ground

>Leaders of both nations agree on need for safe, efficient air traffic flow and amicable solution to maritime boundary issues



Anwar being greeted by Wong during the retreat in Singapore yesterday. - **BERNAMAPIC**

official delegation.

Meanwhile, Wong welcomed Malaysia's decision to formally approve its proposal to establish consulates in Sabah and Sarawak, hailing it as an important step in

strengthening ties between the peoples of the two nations.

"This will allow Singapore to provide consular services to Singaporeans there and deepen the already robust ties between our

peoples," Wong said.

At present, Singapore has two diplomatic missions in Malaysia - its high commission in Kuala Lumpur and a consulate in Johor Bahru which began operations in 2009.