

'Hydrogen project with Japan to be finalised by May'

PUTRAJAYA: Malaysia and Japan will finalise a collaboration on a hydrogen project by May.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said the initiative, led by Sarawak's state-owned Petroleum Sarawak Bhd (Petros) and supported by Petronas, marks a significant step in advancing hydrogen as an alternative energy source.

Anwar said this during a joint press conference with Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba, who is on a two-day visit to Malaysia, after a bilateral meeting here yesterday.

He added that the collaboration would be concluded at a meeting between the two leaders, expected to take place either in Tokyo or Kuala Lumpur.

"To work on this alternative energy, hydrogen, is a feat," Anwar said. "Sarawak Premier Tan Sri Abang Johari Openg has given his assurance, and with the support of Prime Minister Ishiba, this collaboration will be a success.

"We (the federal government) hope to facilitate this as soon as possible to meet the deadline, say by May."

Anwar added that he and Ishiba also discussed the formation of an Asean energy grid, which would include Laos, Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore.

They discussed Sarawak's initiative to establish an undersea energy cable connecting Sarawak to Peninsular Malaysia and Singapore.

Japan's participation would be crucial, he said.

Anwar also said Petronas' long-standing relationship with Japan included the national oil company supplying Japan with liquefied natural gas (LNG).

"Currently, it (relationship) is progressing with carbon capture, utilisation and storage in alignment with Petronas' clean energy policy through the delivery of carbon-neutral LNG cargo to Shikoku Electric and Hiroshima Gas."

On Thursday, Anwar said a "critical" energy transition plan would be among the key topics of discussion between him and Ishiba.

He said the talks could position Malaysia, especially Sarawak, as a regional energy hub.