

MALAYSIA, JAPAN TO BOOST EDUCATION TIES

University of Tsukuba branch campus here among initiatives discussed, says PM

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MALAYSIA and Japan are united in strengthening cooperation in education to enhance bilateral relations and create a more comprehensive strategic partnership, said Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

The prime minister said several initiatives were discussed with his counterpart, Shigeru Ishiba, in this area, including the establishment of a University of Tsukuba branch campus in Malaysia.

Other collaborations include partnerships between Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka and Waseda University, and between Universiti Teknologi Malaysia and the Japan International Institute of Technology.

"Keio University is an important institution; it is where Ishiba studied, and I have had a good relationship with them.

"Therefore, I have asked him to ensure Keio University is involved in some of our programmes, including on civilisational dialogue, as there is a keen interest in fostering interaction between Islam and Taoism," he said at a joint press conference with Ishiba during the latter's official visit to Malaysia.

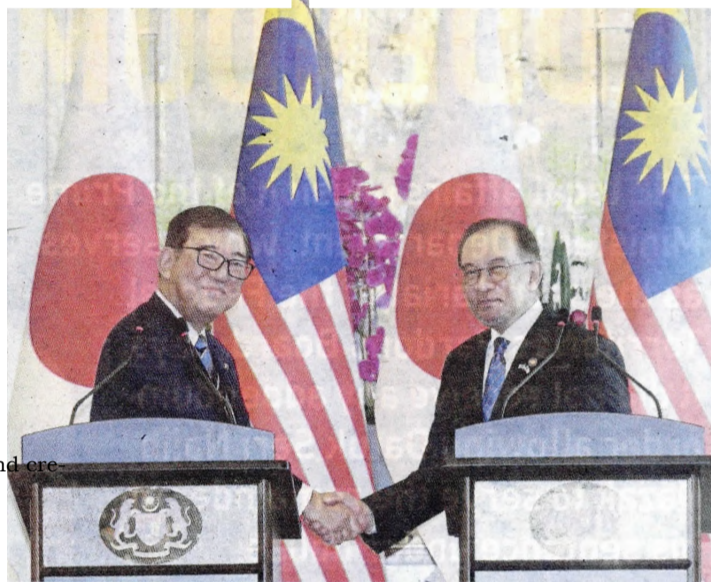
Earlier, Anwar and Ishiba and their delegations held a bilateral meeting to discuss the progress of relations between the two countries.

Anwar also thanked Ishiba and his delegation for choosing Malaysia as the first country to visit.

"This shows how seriously he views Malaysia and the cooperation on various issues to strengthen our bilateral relationship into a comprehensive strategic partnership.

"This includes trade and investment, which are priorities for both countries," he said.

Ishiba, who is on a two-day visit, received an official welcome at the Perdana Putra complex.



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim shaking hands with Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba during a joint press conference in Putrajaya yesterday. NSTP PIC BY MOHD FADLI HAMZAH

He also inspected a guard of honour mounted by three officers and 103 members of the First Battalion of the Royal Ranger Regiment led by Major Arifuddin Mohd Yusuf.

Anwar said Malaysia had pledged its support for Japan's initiative to co-chair a ministerial meeting on the Conference on Cooperation among East Asian Countries for Palestinian Development (CEAPAD), scheduled for July.

He said the conference was significant as it focuses on the reconstruction of Gaza and Palestine.

"It is very meaningful to us in Malaysia, and I'm sure many countries, including Muslims throughout the world," he said.

CEAPAD is a regional conference initiated by Japan in 2013 to support Palestinian state-building efforts by drawing on the resources, knowledge and experiences of East Asian countries' economic development.

Anwar added that Malaysia will support the Asean Secretariat's initiative to consult with Asean colleagues to organise the meeting in Kuala Lumpur during the Asean summit, if agreed upon.

Ishiba said both countries were keen to cooperate in many areas on the international stage, with both nations sharing a convergence of views.

The issues discussed included the East China Sea, the South China Sea, the Middle East and the situation in Myanmar.

"We had a frank exchange of views and agreed that we must communicate closely," Ishiba added.

He also recognised Malaysia as a major country with a large Muslim population, describing it as a bridge between Southeast Asia and the Middle East.

"With regards to the Middle East, including the situation in Gaza, and leveraging East Asia's knowledge towards the region's economic independence, we agreed to cooperate for regional peace and stability."

Malaysia's ties with Japan have grown stronger since bilateral relations were elevated to a comprehensive strategic partnership in December 2023.

Japan is a key economic partner for Malaysia, with a total of 2,821 manufacturing projects involving Japanese participation implemented in Malaysia as of June 2024.

These projects represent investments worth RM105.2 billion, generating employment for approximately 344,996 people.

Japan is the fourth-largest foreign investor in Malaysia's manufacturing sector and Malaysia's fourth-largest trading partner, with total trade valued at RM156.75 billion in 2023.

Page 1 pic: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and his Japanese counterpart, Shigeru Ishiba, meeting in Putrajaya yesterday.