

EU urged to boost climate financing, green initiatives in Southeast Asia

BRUSSELS: In a strong call to action, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim urged the European Union to deepen its support for Southeast Asia by increasing climate financing, green investments, technical assistance and capacity-building initiatives.

Like the EU, Malaysia recognised that the climate crisis was a defining challenge of our time.

Anwar said Putrajaya decided to make sustainability a core pillar of Malaysia's Asean chairmanship this year.

He said Malaysia was committed to galvanising the region towards bold, collective action that would safeguard the future without compromising development and economic prosperity.

He said this during a keynote speech titled "Bridging Regions: Strengthening Southeast Asia-European Resilience" at the College of Europe in Bruges, Belgium.

Anwar arrived in Brussels on Sunday for a two-day working visit to Belgium and to meet EU leaders.

Acknowledging the disparities between developed and developing nations, Anwar said equitable partnerships were essential for advancing the goals of the Paris Agreement and ensuring that vulnerable nations received the necessary support for climate adaptation and mitigation measures.

"Partnerships are key to keeping the hopes of the Paris Agreement alive, and Malaysia appreciates the EU's ongoing support for Southeast Asia's climate ambitions.

"Transitioning away from fossil fuels, developing a regional power grid, implementing carbon taxes, building community resilience to extreme weather events and conserving our rich biodiversity and natural carbon sinks.

"These are just some of Southeast Asia's aspirations as we seek to punch above our weight for a cleaner future while ensuring that the benefits of development are available to all and protecting the most vulnerable segments of society," said Anwar.

Bernama