

# 'Generate opportunities with S. Korea'

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Asean and South Korea have the potential to build an ecosystem that generates new opportunities while promoting inclusive growth, open markets and stable supply chains through the combined strength of their economies.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said to drive meaningful progress, Asean and South Korea must focus on developing future-ready human capital to equip their people to lead change, innovate and build shared prosperity.

"For more than three decades, the Asean-Republic of Korea Dialogue Relations have stood as a model of trust, respect and mutual benefit.

"Our partnership has since evolved into a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, underscoring the confidence we place in one another and the enduring value of our cooperation.

"By combining growth potential with South Korea's strengths, we can shape an ecosystem that creates new opportunities, thus

fostering inclusive growth, open markets and stable supply chains," he said in his welcoming remarks at the 26th Asean-Korea Summit yesterday.

Anwar said the summit was convened at a time when technological disruption, strategic competition, fragmented supply chains and strains on the multilateral trading system were redefining the global economic landscape.

"Amid these forces, Asean and South Korea stand out as nations that believe progress must come through cooperation."

The prime minister noted that in 2024, trade between Asean and South Korea exceeded US\$200 billion, reflecting the strength and resilience of their economic ties.

"Beyond the numbers, Asean offers vast opportunities across diverse sectors, underpinned by the scale, dynamism and youthful energy of more than 600 million people.

"Meanwhile, South Korea brings innovation, technology

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**DATUK SERI ANWAR IBRAHIM**  
Prime minister

and creative ambition that continue to inspire the world. Together, we can play a significant role in shaping regional resilience."

After the summit, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan said Asean and South Korea had reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen bilateral cooperation in technology transfer, artificial intelligence and information exchange.

This, he said, was particularly important in tackling cybercrime and other related issues.

Asean and South Korea elevated their relationship to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership during the 44th Asean Summit in Laos last year.