



Malaysia's legacy woven into the Asean tapestry

THE 47th Asean Summit and Related Summits, hosted in Kuala Lumpur over the weekend, marks the successful conclusion of Malaysia's year as Asean Chair.

Operating under the ambitious banner of "Inclusivity and Sustainability", this chairmanship has firmly demonstrated that Asean centrality is far more than a slogan; it is a functioning diplomatic reality that is standing up to global geopolitical upheavals and economic uncertainty.

Malaysia's leadership of Asean has captured global attention, a fact underscored by the presence of major world leaders at this summit - including US President Donald Trump, Chinese Premier Li Qiang and Japan's Prime

Minister Takaichi Sanae - their attendance alone reaffirms Asean's vital diplomatic role.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's experience on the world's stage showed in the way Asean, under his hand, demonstrated a readiness to confront complex and sensitive regional issues head-on.

At a time when external divisions are overshadowing cooperation, the Asean Chair successfully brokered an immediate ceasefire between Thailand and Cambodia following a serious border dispute.

This decisive, regionally praised action elevated Asean's standing as a proactive peacemaker, moving it well beyond any impression

the world might have that it is a mere discussion forum.

Moreover, the historic admission of Timor-Leste as the 11th member state during the summit is a powerful, tangible victory for the inclusivity agenda - not to mention a validation of Malaysia's long championship of this young nation.

As Chair, Malaysia played a prominent role in the group's most enduring achievement this year: the adoption in May of the Asean Community Vision 2045. This landmark document will chart Asean's course for the next two decades as the region heads towards a resilient, innovative and people-centred future.

On the economic front, Malaysia

effectively twinned growth with sustainability, notably by launching the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Excellence Centre for Green Transition in Asean, a vital step to help the region adopt greener practices.

This, combined with accelerated efforts to upgrade the Asean Trade in Goods Agreement, has cemented the institutional foundations necessary for deeper, more equitable economic integration across all member states.

The 47th Asean Summit and Related Summits - the biggest since 1976 - will conclude on Tuesday but already the consensus across the diplomatic community is undeniable: Malaysia did not merely host meetings; it skil-

fully steered the regional ship with vision and genuine resolve.

By consistently focusing on sustainability and shared prosperity, this year's Asean Chair has ensured the regional group is now more united, distinctly relevant, and robustly prepared for further global headwinds.

The effective navigation of internal tensions, the establishment of a critical long-term vision, and the elevation of Asean's diplomatic standing all highlight the success of this chairmanship.

And Malaysia's legacy of inclusivity and sustainability is now indelibly woven into the Asean tapestry, securing a prosperous and cohesive path forward for South-East Asia.