

Najib's Presence At Asean-India Summit Will Further Enhance Bilateral Ties, Says Malaysian Envoy

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By Saraswathi Muniappan

NEW DELHI, Nov 2 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak's presence at the Asean-India Commemorative Summit here next month will further reinforce bilateral relations between the two nations, says Malaysia's High Commissioner to India Datuk Tan Seng Sung.

The summit, which will mark the 20th anniversary of Putrajaya-New Delhi relations this year, will be held on Dec 21 and 22.

"Our relationship has strengthened very much after Prime Minister Najib's visit in January 2010," he told the Malaysian media here today.

The reciprocal visit by India's Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh in October the same year was a strong sign of the close bilateral ties between New Delhi and Kuala Lumpur, he said.

"The outcome of the two visits is the finalisation of the Malaysia-India Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA), which is already in effect," he said.

Tan said CECA has contributed immensely to two-way trade between the two countries.

CECA envisions trade liberalisation in goods, trade in services, investments and other areas of economic cooperation.

Last year, total trade between Malaysia and India rose by almost 33 per cent to hit US\$12.5 billion.

Malaysia's exports to India increased by about 35 per cent to US\$9.3 billion while imports rose by almost 28 per cent to US\$3.3 billion.

Bilateral trade target is US\$15 billion by 2015. However, with the robust trade flow between the two nations, the target could be achieved before that, he said.

Tan said there is also the Malaysia-India Chief Executive Officers' Forum, which New Delhi has with only four to five countries.

I see this as an important vehicle to promote strategic partnership between the corporate leaders of the two countries not only here but also in third countries, he said.

Malaysian companies should take advantage of the strong relationship and promote Malaysia as the heart of Asean, he added.

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