

**Intensify Efforts To Resolve World Economic Woes**  
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**From Jamaluddin Muhammad**

VIENTIANE, Nov 6 (Bernama) -- The 9th Asia-Europe Meeting (Asem) Summit's declaration has called for urgent need to intensify common and efficient efforts towards the resolution of major world economic challenges.

The Vientiane Declaration on Strengthening Partnership for Peace and Development adopted at the end of the two-day meeting here, said it included reform of international monetary and financial system.

Lessons from the 1997 Asian financial crisis and the current economic and financial challenges in Europe has underlined the need for greater cooperation in economic, finance and trade issues that contribute to long-term, strong, balanced and sustainable growth of the world economy.

Other challenges are food security, energy security, water resources management, commodities price fluctuation, unemployment, illegal migration and human trafficking.

It said progress in addressing the challenges would lay down a solid foundation for sustainable development, greater economic and social equity, justice, the rule of law, sustainable livelihood and resources management.

Leaders from 20 Asian and 29 European countries attended the summit held at the National Convention Centre here.

In strengthening partnership for development between the two regions, the declaration, among others, stressed the leaders' commitment to fighting against poverty and attaining development goals.

This is to ensure Millennium Development Goals targets are achieved in poverty eradication, equitable and sustainable development and inclusive growth.

According to the declaration, they are committed to enhancing open, fair and rules-based trade in goods and services, investment, expanding markets and resisting protectionism in all its forms, which are necessary conditions for sustained global economic recovery.

In strengthening partnership for peace, the declaration also touched on the leaders' renewed commitment to deepen and broaden Asem interfaith dialogue and its valuable contribution to promoting social cohesion, peace and development.

The declaration also recognised the role of the United Nations Alliance of Civilisations in this field and acknowledged the concept of moderation as articulated by the Global Movement of Moderates.

The Global Movement of Moderates initiated by Malaysia, among others, promotes moderation approaches in solving conflict.

The Asem Summit is held once every two years, with the host alternating between the two regions.

Cyprus will host the next summit.

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