

Najib hopes Wen will continue to promote Malaysia-China relations
The Star Online
20 November, 2012
MERGAWATI ZULFAKAR in PHNOM PENH

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak has expressed his gratitude to China's Premier Wen Jiabao during his leadership and hoped that his successor would continue to promote Malaysia-China relations.

The two leaders, who are here to attend the Asean and Related Summits, met at Wen's request.

"Premier Wen stated that China-Malaysia ties are at the forefront of China-Asean relations, which are not only confined to economic relations but also in the areas of politics and security.

"I have expressed the Malaysian Government's and my own personal gratitude for his contribution to bringing closer relations between Malaysia and China," Najib told the Malaysian media here yesterday.

His meeting with Wen took place on Sunday.

Both leaders, said Najib, were pleased with their economic links with China becoming Malaysia's top trading partner as total trade was expected to reach US\$100bil (RM300bil).

Najib said he also conveyed to Wen that Malaysia would work closely with China in realising its five-year plan on economic and trade reforms.

The five-year plan, with activities to be identified for implementation between next year and 2017, is being finalised.

The areas of cooperation included agriculture, infrastructure, manufacturing, mineral resources and wholesale and retail.

China is expected to submit the draft plan in the next few weeks for Malaysia's consideration.

They also agreed on the need to ensure the successful completion of major projects such as the China-Malaysia Qinzhou Industrial Park, the Malaysia-China Kuantan Industrial Park and the Gemas-Johor Baru rail link project.

"I hope when we launch the industrial park by next quarter, he can make it or someone designated by him."

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