

Packed schedule for PM
New Straits Times
5 November 2012
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BILATERAL MEETINGS: Back-to-back programmes await Najib in Laos

VIENTIANE: WHEN Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak wakes up in Laos today, a timetable packed with appointments will be laid out at his breakfast table.

He is here to attend the two-day 9th edition of the Asia-Europe Meeting Summit, which starts today, hosted by the Laos government.

But it is more than just Asem awaiting the prime minister.

Bilateral meetings with leaders from Pakistan, France and Norway have also been lined up for him here.

Malaysian ambassador to Laos Datuk Than Tai Hing said additional bilateral discussions with other heads of state or government would be slotted in for Najib if time permitted.

He said other leaders from Asem member countries would also be keen to have one-on-one discussions with Najib.

"Any such meetings will be arranged on first-come-first-served basis as the prime minister has a tight schedule," Than told Malaysian journalists at the Malaysian embassy here.

At the Asem summit, he said, Najib was expected to focus on enhancing political, economic and bilateral ties between Asia and Europe.

Themed "Friends for peace, partners for prosperity", the summit will see the attendance of 51 Asem members.

Than said 12 heads of state and 23 heads of government were among those who would lead their countries to Asem.

"The presence of our prime minister shows his firm support for the host country, besides underlying his commitment to the Asem cause.

"He is also likely to use his time here to strengthen ties and improve trade between Malaysia and Laos."

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Source: <http://www.nst.com.my/nation/general/packed-schedule-for-pm-1.166777>