

Malaysia-Japan Can Work Closely To Promote Peace And Security – ISIS

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KUALA LUMPUR, March 28 (Bernama) -- Malaysia and Japan can work closely in specialised areas like anti-piracy, submarine search and rescue missions, and the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Dr Tang Siew Mun from the Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS), said that these strategic collaborations, requires acquisitions of skill, knowledge and values of promoting peace and security for both nations.

The ISIS Director (Foreign Policy and Security Studies) said that so far, Malaysia, together with its Asean partners such as Thailand, Singapore, and Indonesia, has been concentrating on safe-guarding the Straits of Melaka and the open sky.

"The big threat on piracy is the Gulf of Aden and the southern part of Indian Ocean. We see that Malaysia is patrolling on its own and Japan has also started coordinated patrols for anti-piracy operations with the navy of India and China.

"My suggestion is for Malaysia-Japan to link and collaborate to provide security for their own respective ships, and having the coordinated patrols," he told reporters after an international symposium on the 'New Dimension of the Look East Policy' at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Universiti Malaya here, Thursday.

The joint seminar was organised by the Japan Association for Malaysia Studies (JAMS) and Malaysia Association of Japan Studies (MAJAS).

The "Look East policy, was introduced by former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad in 1992.

On the submarine search and rescue, Dr Tang suggested that this mission was highly technical, and only few countries like the United States of America can conduct a 'submarine in distress operation'.

"With Japan having the largest submarine force, it could render some expertise and guidance to Malaysia on how to conduct a search and rescue mission, if such a situation arise in our nation, one day," he explained.

Tang also called for cooperation for the establishment of nuclear arms control where Japan and Asean share the same stand, reject the use of nuclear weapons.

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