

Malaysia, Indonesia Agree For Asean To Consider Common Time Zone
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PUTRAJAYA, Feb 6 (Bernama) -- Malaysia and Indonesia have agreed the ASEAN common time zone initiative be given the appropriate consideration by the regional organisation, President Joko Widodo voiced his desire to hold discussions regarding the common time zone at the regional organisation's level as soon as possible.

"Common time zone, namely an ASEAN time zone agreement is symbolic of the association in ASEAN and, as such, must be expedited among ASEAN member countries," said the Indonesian leader, popularly known as Jokowi.

He disclosed this at a joint media conference with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak at Perdana Putra here today after attending a four-eye meeting and delegation meeting.

Jokowi is currently on a three-day state visit to Malaysia beginning yesterday.

At the joint media conference, Najib said the aim of creating a common time zone was to facilitate trade and integration among ASEAN member countries.

"It is to show ASEAN solidarity," he said.

Prior to this, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Anifah Aman said the ASEAN common time zone was also discussed at the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Retreat held in Kota Kinabalu from last Jan 27 to 28.

Among the benefits of a common time zone for the region is to enhance trade and cooperation among governments and between ASEAN and other countries in Asia.

A common time zone allows more time for communication; coordinates share market activities; enhances flight operation system and improves business and banking network in the Asian region.

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