

## **DPM Leads Malaysian Delegation To Disaster Management Conference**

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**From Kamarul Ariffin Md Yassin**

TOKYO, March 13 (Bernama) -- Malaysia is to share its experience and knowledge in disaster management with over 20 countries at the five-day Third United Nations World Conference On Disaster Risk Reduction, in Sendai, Japan, beginning tomorrow.

The Malaysian delegation at the conference will be led by Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, who is also the chairman of the National Disaster Management Committee.

Malaysian Ambassador to Japan Datuk Ahmad Izlan Idris said Muhyiddin would attend the international conference for two days from tomorrow at the invitation of Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and United Nations secretary-general Ban Ki-moon.

During the conference, all participating nations would exchange views and share experiences on current issues pertaining to risk management besides formulating a new framework based on the outcome of the conference in Sendai, located about 380km from here.

"The deputy prime minister will state our experience, policies as well as risk reduction in the sustainable development for the economy, development and poverty eradication.

"We also want to find ways to collaborate internationally based on our experience in addressing risk reduction mitigation," he told Malaysian journalists here Friday.

Ahmad Izlan said Muhyiddin would be accompanied by his wife, Puan Sri Norainee Abdul Rahman; Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Dr Shahidan Kassim and senior officers from the National Security Council; Economic Planning Unit (EPU); Women, Family and Community Development Ministry; Education Ministry and Works Ministry.

"On the first day (Saturday), Muhyiddin will attend the official opening of the conference and luncheon hosted by the Prime Minister of Japan for all heads of delegations.

"Later, he will also have a meeting with Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Numan Kurtulmus," he said.

He said that on Sunday, Muhyiddin would attend the Ministerial Roundtable on 'Reconstructing after Disaster: Build Back Better' in Sendai, and receive a courtesy call from Japan's Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism Minister Akihiro Ota.

Ahmad Izlan said the deputy prime minister's presence showed Malaysia's high commitment and continuous efforts on disaster risk reduction efforts at the national and international levels.

Muhyiddin, who will be on a four-day working visit, is expected to arrive here at 10.30 pm (9.30 pm in Malaysia).

Ahmad Izlan said Muhyiddin would also have several other functions on Sunday night, including a meeting with the Malaysian community in Japan.

On Monday, he would meet with Japan's Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Minister Hakubun Shimomura, he said, adding that at the event, a memorandum of cooperation in education would be signed between Malaysia and Japan.

Among others it is to strengthen, promote and develop more cooperation in the context of pre-school, primary and secondary school.

"Specifically it also relates to school institution linkages in the field of science and mathematics, information and communication technology, sports, culture and music, teacher education and training, technical and vocational education and training," he said.

The Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction takes place in the centre of the Tohoku region, which bore the brunt of the 2011 earthquake and tsunami that led to the Fukushima meltdown.

It is an appropriate location to continue making the strides that began amid the devastation of the Indian Ocean tsunami in January 2005, which claimed 227,000 lives.

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