

Malaysia, Turkey to work on reversing negative perception of Islam, says DPM – Bernama
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Malaysia and Turkey will collaborate to rectify the global misperceptions about Islam, said Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

The issue was one of several topics discussed by Muhyiddin with his Turkish counterpart, Numan Kurtulmus when they attended the United Nations' Third World Conference on Disaster Reduction in Sendai, Japan.

Muhyiddin said the Turkish deputy prime minister raised an important issue which was a global problem – the issue of terrorism, Islamophobia and the Islamic State (Isis) militant group – which had become a global security threat.

"How Malaysia and Turkey can play a role in correcting the perceptions of people on these issues... how Islam is a religion of peace, development and progress, and how Islam did not call on its people to commit murder and slayings like those conducted by Isis and terrorist groups.

"Collaborations between Muslim countries, like Malaysia and Turkey, in creating better understanding of what Islam truly is and countering violence is very important. We agreed to collaborate in this matter," he told Malaysian journalists in Sendai today.

Muhyiddin said his meeting with Kurtulmus also discussed bilateral ties especially trade and investment targets.

"The previous meeting between Prime Minister (Datuk Seri Najib Razak) and Turkish president (Recep Tayyip Erdogan) which set a new target of US\$5 billion in bilateral trade value must be achieved in the coming four, five years.

"Besides efforts by government agencies and ministries, there is also the private sector. How they can play a role in making more efforts so that there is more two-way trade and investment.

"I also touched on education. We will be working together. We already have an agreement and memorandum. This must be pursued," he said.

Muhyiddin arrived here on Friday for a four-day working visit and has attended the conference since it opened yesterday.

The world conference on disaster reduction held in Sendai, about 380km from Tokyo, will end on Wednesday.

It is being held in the middle of Tohoku region which was devastated by earthquake in 2011 and the tsunami which brought about the Fukushima crisis.

While at Sendai, Muhyiddin also held bilateral meetings with Japan's prime minister Shinzo Abe and the country's Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism minister Akihiro Ota.

On his meeting with Ota, Muhyiddin said the minister had proposed a memorandum of cooperation between Malaysia and Japan in the sharing of experience and disaster management and technology and other relevant issues.

"I agreed and hope the relevant ministry and agencies will carry out detailed discussions so that the memorandum could be signed," he said. – Bernama, March 15, 2015.

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