

M'sia pledges 45% reduction in greenhouse gases

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Malaysia, the world's second-largest producer of palm oil, pledged to cut projected greenhouse gas emissions 45% by 2030 after world leaders met in Paris to open talks on combating climate change.

The Southeast Asian nation will lower its emissions relative to 2005 levels, Prime Minister Najib Razak said on Wednesday in a statement posted on his personal blog.

The target for 2030 consists of a 35% cut on an unconditional basis and further 10% reduction based on climate finance and technology transfer.

“This new target shall not and should not be seen as an impediment to our economic development,” Najib said. Malaysia's green policies and initiatives could establish new industries and businesses that create jobs, he said.

Malaysia has boosted forest cover and earmarked more such land for protection, planting more than 50 million trees and over 2,500ha of mangroves since 2011 as it sought to preserve its natural resources and prevent environmental degradation.

Six years ago in Copenhagen it set a target of cutting emissions by as much as 40% by 2020 compared with 2005 levels. The government said it had achieved a 33% reduction as of end-2013.

Policymakers are meeting in Paris for two weeks of talks on a deal intended to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and limit global warming to 2 degrees Celsius. The planet is halfway to dangerous levels of global warming, with the average temperature for 2015 set to eclipse last year's record, the United Nations said.

Island nations most at risk from rising sea levels and other developing nations want the industrialised world to provide money to help them mitigate the effects of climate change and subsidise their own transitions from carbon-emitting fossil fuels.

— **By Niluksi Koswanage & Shamim Adam**

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