

Turkish Prime Minister Invites Malaysian Prime Minister To G-20 Summit In Antalya Bernama

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By Manik Mehta

NEW YORK, Oct 1 (Bernama) -- Malaysia has been invited to join the G-20 summit in its capacity as this year's Chair of the Association of the Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

The invitation was extended to Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak by Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu during a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the ongoing 70th General Assembly of the United Nations (UNGA), here.

This was confirmed by Davutoglu's senior media advisor and spokesman Osman Sert to Bernama.

Malaysia is not a member of the 20 member countries of the G-20. An added criterion that swings in Malaysia's favour is the fact that it will also chair the inauguration of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC).

"The two leaders (Davutoglu and Najib) exchanged views on several bilateral and global issues and on opportunities in increasing Turkish-Malaysian cooperation in all areas of interest but particularly, in economy, trade, investments, culture and education.

"Prime Minister Davutoglu reiterated Turkey's appreciation of Malaysia's support as Chair of ASEAN to intensify cooperation with this important regional organisation.

"He has also invited Najib to join the G-20 summit as the Chair of ASEAN. The Malaysian Prime Minister, in turn, renewed his invitation to the Turkish Prime Minister to visit Malaysia," Sert said.

Just as Malaysia is chairing the ASEAN this year, the G-20 summit in 2015 will be chaired by Turkey, and will be held in Antalya on Nov 15 and 16.

The G-20 was formed in 1999 under the leadership of the G-7 to bring together industrialised and developing countries.

Its members are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States, plus the EU Commission as the 20th member.

The EU Commission represents a number of EU member states. The International Monetary Fund and the World Bank senior managements also participate in G-20 meetings. The goal is to find ways to support global growth and development by encouraging an open and constructive exchange of views.

Turkish sources, explaining the G-20's significance, say that since decisions taken at G-20

meetings are backed by countries that constitute 90 per cent of the global system, they are of significant weight and nature to guide the system and countries.

The Antalya meeting will be the 10th summit of G-20 leaders. About 13,000 people, including economy, finance, agriculture, foreign affairs ministers, businessmen, journalists and delegations are expected to be there.

The G20 membership comprises a mix of the world's largest advanced and emerging economies, representing about two-thirds of the world's population, 85 per cent of global GDP and over 75 per cent of global trade.

Each year the G20 president invites several guest countries to participate in G-20 events and contribute to the agenda. G20 members engage with guest countries and other non-member countries to ensure that the G-20 reflects a broad range of international opinion.

In 2015 the Antalya meeting will have Spain as a permanent invitee, Malaysia as the 2015 ASEAN Chair, Zimbabwe as 2015 Chair of the African Union; Senegal representing New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD); Azerbaijan; and Singapore.

Previous hosts of the G20 Leaders' Summit were the United States in 2008 and 2009, the United Kingdom in 2009, Canada 2010, the (2009), Canada (2010), the Republic of Korea (2010), France (2011), Mexico (2012), Russia (2013) and Australia (2014).

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