

**Global Community Recognises Malaysia's Substantive Contribution To ASEAN – Najib Bernama**  
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KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 22 (Bernama) -- The global community has recognised Malaysia's substantive contribution to ASEAN in forging closer ties among the grouping's member states and international players, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said today.

He said Malaysia had scored high marks for the successful chairing of a memorable 27th ASEAN Summit and Related Summits, thus boosting its international image.

The outgoing ASEAN chairman said that though he had attended many summits in recent years, the 27th ASEAN Summit and related summits were the most substantive because the 18 leaders discussed major issues as well as happenings around the world.

"I would rate this (summit) as the most successful ASEAN summit. Even United Nations secretary-general Ban Ki-Moon came from New York for just one day to attend the summit.

"That shows the growing global recognition of ASEAN. ASEAN is not just a regional organisation but has reached a level where the world has recognised the importance of ASEAN," Najib told a press conference after the conclusion of the 27th ASEAN Summit and related summits here Sunday.

As a Malaysian, Najib said, he felt very proud to know that people had very high regard for Malaysia and this was the nation's contribution to building its image on the global map.

"For Malaysia, as the host and chair of ASEAN, the whole process of the ASEAN Summit is successful in terms of addressing current challenges and the issues of violent extremism and sense of global togetherness," he said with pride. To a question on how Malaysia planned to make its citizens understand the Asean Community, Najib said: "When we talk about community, there are three pillars (political-security, economic and socio-cultural) and we have achieved in a significant way the reduction of tariffs to zero or almost zero level.

"We have also made tremendous economic progress and growth in this area, and ASEAN is being seen as the most dynamic region in the world today," he said.

Najib said that besides achieving steady economic progress in the ASEAN Community, he felt that the peoples of ASEAN must also have a sense of community in their hearts and minds.

"It will take years to get there, but it is not difficult for us," he said.

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