

Malaysia Further Encouraged By Japan's Commitment To Support ASEAN Centrality
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KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 22 (Bernama) -- Malaysia, as the chairman of ASEAN this year, is further encouraged by Japan's continued commitment and affirmation of its strong support of ASEAN centrality, said Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

In his opening remarks at the 18th ASEAN-Japan Summit in the Malaysian capital Sunday, Najib also applauded Japan's support on Malaysia's leading role in ASEAN mechanisms, including the ASEAN Plus Three Summit and East Asia Summit.

"It is certainly worthy of note that we are convening the ASEAN-Japan Summit for the fourth time in just a little over two years. This is testament to the importance ASEAN places on Japan as a dialogue partner," he said.

Najib said Japan had played an active and key role in ASEAN's development, in particular the effort to establish an integrated ASEAN Community.

"We are confident Japan will continue its strong commitment and partnership with ASEAN as we embark on fulfilling our Vision 2025," he said.

The ASEAN-Japan Summit was held in conjunction with the 27th ASEAN Summit which ended Sunday.

ASEAN groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

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