

ASEAN, Russian Leaders Gather for Welcoming Ceremony, Working Session
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SOCHI (Russia), May 20 (Bernama) -- Leaders of ASEAN and Russia gathered at the Congress Centre here Friday for the ASEAN-Russia Commemorative Summit welcoming ceremony and working session.

As the host of the summit, Russian President Vladimir Putin personally welcomed the ASEAN leaders in a ceremony to mark the 20th anniversary of Russia's dialogue relations with the regional grouping.

Malaysia's Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak is among the ASEAN leaders who participated in the activities of the two-day summit, which began Thursday.

The ASEAN-Russia summit leaders immediately get into their working session as they engaged in a meeting with the representatives of the Business Forum.

In line with the tradition of international forums, the summit participants posed for a family photo.

The leaders also proceeded for the plenary session of the summit.

The commemorative summit serves as a platform for the leaders of the ASEAN member states and Russia to chart the future direction of the partnership.

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

Russia has been a dialogue partner of ASEAN since July 1996.

President Putin had on Thursday held a series of bilateral meetings with ASEAN leaders who arrived in Sochi for the summit.

He also hosted an official reception for the leaders Thursday evening.

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