

Trailblazing humanitarian Dr Jemilah awarded 2019 ASEAN Prize

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BANGKOK, Nov 3 – ASEAN needs a new “growth paradigm” that will enable it to create a prosperous, stable and sustainable region, said Thailand Prime Minister General Prayuth Chan-o-cha.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the 35th ASEAN Summit and Related Summits here today, he said a new growth paradigm is one that will foster dynamic, sustainable and inclusive growth, prioritise human capital development concurrently with environment conservation.

He said ASEAN should also continue to develop mechanisms for economic dispute settlements while at the same time taking full use of the Fourth Industrial Revolution technology and innovation to create new economic opportunities for the people in this region.

“With regard to creating a prosperous and sustainable region, we should continue to work to conclude negotiations on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), within this year to stimulate economic growth as well as trade and investment.

“We should also continue to support the multilateral trading system under the purview of the World Trade Organisation as well as regional and sub-regional economic cooperation including the ACMECS (Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy) and the Greater Bay Area (GBA), so as to enhance the economic resilience of ASEAN and the region going forward,” he added.

On another note, Prayuth also called on the ASEAN member states to continue to build on strengthening its partnership and friendship which he said is crucial in enabling the region to tackle and overcome the increasing global economic and geostrategic challenges.

He added that since its early days, ASEAN had placed great importance on building strong partnership not only among members within, but also with external partners, adding that the friendships have helped ASEAN to realise its aspirations, and extending the benefits of its work beyond the Southeast Asian region as well.

“Our meetings over the next two days will be an important opportunity to demonstrate the partnership and friendship between ASEAN and the global community, a true coming together to take forward the outcomes of the last ASEAN Summit and to craft a collective approach based on ASEAN centrality and its strength in being a friend to all and enemy to none in addressing regional and global challenges as well as promoting sustainability in all dimensions,” he said.

The biannual meeting is attended by all 10 leaders from the grouping as well as their counterparts from other non-member states including from China, Japan, India and Russia.

Leading the Malaysian delegation to the three-day summit is Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Among the meetings that will take place at the IMPACT Exhibition and Convention Centre here are the 22nd ASEAN-China Summit, 16th ASEAN-India Summit, 14th ASEAN-East Asia Summit (EAS), 10th ASEAN-United Nations (UN) Summit, 22nd ASEAN Plus Three Summit, and the 3rd Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) meeting.

This year's summit with the theme "Advancing Partnership for Sustainability" is important as it gives ASEAN leaders an opportunity to review and study current issues and the ASEAN Community Agenda following the establishment of the ASEAN Community and as well as endorsement of ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together (ASEAN Vision 2025) in 2019.

This is the second and final summit hosted by Thailand as this year's ASEAN Chair.

ASEAN chairmanship was chosen via a unique rotation system where host country is selected based on the alphabetical order.

Next year's ASEAN Summit will be hosted by Vietnam.

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