

Najib: Regional peace vital

Security issues should not be allowed to threaten stability in East Asia

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TOKYO: A comprehensive security environment is necessary in East Asia to prevent security issues from becoming a threat to peace in the region.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said security issues went beyond terrorism and transnational crimes to include economic, cultural and environmental issues.

"These issues are real, all extremely complex and potentially explosive. They are complex because we are beginning to realise their inter-connectivity to a whole plethora of military and non-military issues and thus require more than just one-dimension responses," Najib said.

In his address at the Japanese Institute of International Affairs here yesterday, Najib said a comprehensive security environment should bring about a community of friendship, goodwill and prosperity.

He pointed to Asean which had undertaken various endeavours at bilateral, regional and multilateral levels through the Asean Regional Forum, its annual summits and Asia-Europe meetings.

"In a sense, these overlapping forums come close to resembling a virtual security architecture for East Asia," he added.

He said in North-East Asia, the political and security architecture remained relatively underdeveloped, with the exception of the ad-hoc Six-Party Talks on the North Korean nuclear agenda (?).



Surprise guest: Najib's wife Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor greeting Abe who attended a Malaysian community meeting in conjunction with Najib's visit to Tokyo yesterday. — AP

Najib said there should be more robust dialogue on North-East Asia towards confidence building.

He said economic growth among states in the East Asian region was also vital towards the security envi-

ronment, as was inculcating the spirit of a common value system.

Najib said military diplomacy was also fast being recognised.

"Contrary to a skewed public perception, the military is probably the

most mindful and cautious about going to war," he added.

Later during a meeting with some 100 Malaysians working and studying in Japan, the deputy prime minister reminded them to learn the

strong work ethics and values of the Japanese.

The Malaysian community were pleasantly surprised to find in their midst Akie Abe, the wife of Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

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