

# Malaysian prime minister's visit

## Bilateral trade, relations continue to flourish

Dato' Ahmad Izlan Idris  
AMBASSADOR OF MALAYSIA

Malaysia and Japan have always enjoyed a strong and close relationship in all areas over the past 58 years, based on mutual respect and understanding. This relationship has been strengthened by regular exchanges of visits at all levels. Prime Minister Najib Razak visited Japan in December 2013 and in May 2014, while Prime Minister Shinzo Abe undertook an official visit to Malaysia on July 25, 2013. These exchanges have certainly forged a closer working relationship between the two prime ministers.

On the economic front, bilateral trade between Malaysia and Japan continues to grow. Japan



Above: Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak meets with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in Tokyo on May 21, 2014. Right: The Prime Minister's Office in Putrajaya, the federal administrative center of Malaysia. CABINET PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE, EMBASSY OF MALAYSIA

is Malaysia's third largest trading partner and Japan ranked first in foreign direct investment to Malaysia in 2014. The strong relations and close cooperation have also been further fostered through various engagements

and collaboration in other areas such as tourism, education, infrastructure development and science and technology, as well as cultural exchanges.

Malaysia-Japan relations are not only confined to bilateral co-



operation, but also encompass cooperation at the regional and international levels. Both countries are also involved in various regional trade agreements such as the ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership

Agreement and the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement.

The official visit of the prime minister of Malaysia to Japan from May 24 to 26 is therefore expected to boost and further

strengthen the already close bilateral relations to a higher level. I am confident that both Malaysia and Japan can achieve greater heights together in various mutually beneficial fields of cooperation.

### Prime Minister Najib Razak realizes far-reaching political, economic reforms

Najib Razak was born into politics. Both his father and uncle were prime ministers. When his father died he became the youngest member of parliament in Malaysia's history in 1976, and has since held many major ministerial portfolios. When he became prime minister in April 2009, critics called him the ultimate insider. But he has taken many by surprise, implementing the most far-reaching political and economic reforms since Malaysia's independence.

#### Reforms

The prime minister has, for example: repealed the colonial-era Internal Security Act, which permitted indefinite detention without trial; ended Malaysia's 60-year State of Emergency; introduced measures to increase media freedom such as scrapping restrictions on newspaper publishing licenses; and reformed the Universities and University Colleges Act to allow undergraduates to participate in political activities. He also created the Peaceful Assembly Act, for the first time enshrining in law the

right to peaceful protest; repealed the Banishment Act; repealed the Restricted Residences Act; and implemented various electoral reforms.

His Government Transformation Program has fundamentally changed the provision of government services — improving education, widening access to healthcare, developing rural infrastructure, expanding public transport, reducing poverty, cutting crime and corruption and bringing down the cost of living. Alongside this, his Economic Transformation Program has significantly liberalised the economy — creating more than 300,000 jobs, raising living standards, encouraging foreign investment and turning Malaysia into one of Asia's most dynamic and successful economies.

#### 1Malaysia

The prime minister also introduced the "1Malaysia" concept, stressing the importance of national unity regardless of race or religious belief. 1Malaysia has also delivered improvements on

the ground. For example, more than 1.5 million people have passed through new 1Malaysia health clinics, where anyone can receive treatment for any condition for about 30 cents.

#### Movement of the moderates

In terms of foreign policy, the prime minister has called for a new global "Movement of the Moderates" to combat extremism, attracting support from U.S. President Barack Obama and British Prime Minister David Cameron, among others. In 2011, he became the first Muslim head of government to unequivocally condemn suicide bombing and label it un-Islamic. He has also contributed to the efforts in Afghanistan by sending in female Muslim doctors.

#### Latest election win

The prime minister was returned to office in May 2013, winning Malaysia's 13th general election, where he stressed the importance of national unity and working for the betterment of all Malaysians.



Prime Minister of Malaysia Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak



Located in the heart of Kuala Lumpur, the Petronas Twin Towers, the tallest twin towers in the world, are a landmark of Malaysia. EMBASSY OF MALAYSIA

**Heartiest Welcome**  
to His Excellency  
Dato' Sri Mohd Najib  
Tun Abdul Razak,  
Prime Minister of Malaysia,  
on His Official Visit to Japan

**JAMECA**  
Japan-Malaysia Economic Association

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