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KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia is looking to strengthen strategic cooperation with Japan, particularly in energy transition and sustainability, said Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

He said his meeting with former Japanese prime minister Fumio Kishida yesterday marked a significant step in enhancing bilateral cooperation to address global challenges, especially in advancing clean energy and environmental sustainability.

He said as Asean chair, Malaysia was committed to leading regional efforts towards a low-carbon future.

"We welcome Japan's technical support and advanced research, including through initiatives such as the Asia Zero Emission Community, particularly to fast-track the implementation of Malaysia's National Energy Transition Roadmap on a large scale," he said on Facebook.

Anwar, who is finance minister,

said Japan's expertise in renewable energy, bioenergy and carbon capture, utilisation and storage technologies positioned it as a valuable partner in Malaysia's efforts to become a regional hub for sustainable and innovative energy solutions.

"To that end, Malaysia has proposed a new centre of cooperation in the country to enhance cross-sector collaboration in technology, sustainability and Asean energy integration.

"With expanded linkages between industry, policy and research communities in both nations, we are confident that Malaysia can accelerate its energy transition agenda, pioneer innovative solutions and strengthen regional economic resilience."

Malaysia's ties with Japan have deepened since both nations elevated ties to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in 2023.

Japan remains a key economic partner, with nearly 3,000 man-

ufacturing projects involving Japanese participation implemented in Malaysia up to June last year. The projects represent a total investment of RM105.2 billion, creating nearly 344,000 jobs.

According to the Statistics Department, Japan was Malaysia's fourth-largest foreign direct investment source in the fourth quarter of 2024, with RM102.02 billion in investments — an increase from RM94.18 billion in the same period in 2023.