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Our input lauded, says Najib

FUTURE PLANS: Commonwealth accepts suggestions on equitable development

SHAHRUM SAYUTI

MALAYSIA'S input on inclusive, sustainable and equitable development has been well-received at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) 2013 here and will be included as an integral part of the association of countries' future development plans.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said Malaysia's suggestions on issues such as eradicating poverty and fair distribution of wealth were in line with the Commonwealth's wish to play a significant role in the drafting of the United Nations' Post-2015 Development Agenda.

The agenda is to chart the world community's future plans in handling matters concerning issues ranging from halting the spread of the HIV epidemic to providing adequate education for all children.

Najib, who was speaking to Malaysian media at the end of the second day of CHOGM here yesterday, said leaders attending the

meeting had agreed on the communique on their wish to play a significant role on the matter.

He said a special meeting of Commonwealth financial ministers would be held next year to provide recommendations as input for the UN's drafting of the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

The agenda will be the continuation of the UN's Millennium Development agenda, whose eight goals were eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, achieving universal primary education, promoting gender equality, reducing child mortality rate, improving maternal health, combating diseases and ensuring environmental sustainability, as well as developing a global partnership for development.

Najib said the mood at the CHOGM retreat yesterday was good, as fellow leaders supported each others' views on how to enhance cooperation to make the Commonwealth a more efficient association of countries.

"It was a relaxed retreat, where we were able to impart views that are beneficial for our countries."

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Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong took a 'selfie' with his Malaysian counterpart, **Datuk Seri Najib Razak**, at the start of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) 2013 on Friday in Colombo, Sri Lanka. In a Twitter posting at 3.19pm, Lee wrote 'Backstage with @NajibRazak, waiting to join our Commonwealth colleagues for the opening ceremony'. CHOGM ends today.