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# M'sia to give input on post-millennium goals

## It will help Commonwealth nations shape global direction



MALAYSIA is set to give its input to the association of Commonwealth Nations on the United Nations Post-Millennium Development Goals as part of a measure to give the 53 member nations a better role in setting its direction.

The heads of government attending the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) had decided that the member nations would play a more decisive role in shaping the outcome of the post-millennium goals in 2015, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

"To achieve this, a conference of CHOGM finance ministers will be held to discuss the matter and prepare input to determine the direction of UN's Post-Millennium Development Goals," he told reporters after launching the Foshwa Pvt Ltd One-Stop-Centre for Malaysian visas at a ceremony in Colombo yesterday.

Such a decision was taken based on the influence of CHOGM's member nations, which would be able to shape the direction of other international forums, said Najib.

Malaysia, he said, would be channelling its input to CHOGM by 2014 before the Commonwealth body presented its views to UN

following the proposed conference.

Initiated in 2000, the eight Millennium Development Goals are aimed at, among others, halving extreme poverty, halting the spread of HIV/AIDS, providing universal primary education, reducing child mortality, promoting gender equality and ensuring sustainable development.

Najib said leaders also continued their discussions on how to achieve sustainable, equitable and inclusive development for the member nations.

Earlier, he had joined other leaders for two sessions of the CHOGM retreat.

Held at the upmarket hotel Waters Edge, the discussions during the retreat, among others, touched on the Commonwealth's fundamental values as well as the global economic situation.



**Top-level meeting:** Najib checking his papers at the CHOGM retreat in Colombo. — Bernama