
PUTIN URGES DEEPER TIES WITH SOUTHEAST ASIA AS RUSSIA-ASEAN SUMMIT OPENS

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18.06.2026

Anadolu Agency (18 June 2026)

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Russian President Vladimir Putin opened the inaugural Russia-ASEAN summit in Kazan on Thursday, urging closer ties between Russia and Southeast Asian nations.

Relations between Moscow and the Southeast Asian bloc are "an important stabilizing factor" in the Asia-Pacific region amid geopolitical turbulence, Putin said, addressing the meeting.

The Russian president noted that the association had established itself as a respected international organization built on international law and mutual consideration of interests, adding that these principles also underpin Russia's strategic partnership with ASEAN.

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