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Leaders agree on need for co-operation

MALAYSIA and China yesterday agreed that the depreciation of currencies of the region requires further co-operation between Southeast Asian countries and neighbouring nations, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said.

Speaking after a bilateral meeting between Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Chinese President Jiang Zemin ahead of the Asean Informal Summit and the Asean+3 meeting today, Abdullah, however said China had acknowledged the fact that trade between Asean member countries and China could be affected if the situation worsened.

On the absence of Indonesia's President Suharto, Abdullah said the leaders missed his presence.

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