

Swiss students on a mission to meet Dr M

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KUALA LUMPUR: A group of Swiss part-time economics students who missed meeting Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad during his visit to Zurich in June vowed to make up for this by coming to Malaysia.

And the eight, who are from the "Yes" (Young Economists of Switzerland) study team, deserve full marks for determination - they saved up their earnings and have finally made it here with the help of sponsors.

Silvan Siegenthaler, leader of the group from the University of Applied Sciences in Berne, said they had gone to

Zurich to try to meet the Prime Minister.

"It wasn't possible as he was just too busy. But we managed to meet some of the corporate leaders in the Malaysian delegation," he said at the residence of Swiss ambassador Dr Peter A. Schweizer, who hosted five members of the group to dinner on Thursday.

The other students present were Karin Fluckiger, Roland Trummer, Diana Steiner and Roland Wittwer.

Besides their admiration for the Malaysian premier, there is another reason why the group has chosen Malaysia for their international study project on "Excellence in Re-

lationship Management."

"Malaysia is an interesting and dynamic economy. But acquiring knowledge from books is not good enough for us. We wanted to be here," Siegenthaler said.

The students, who work four days a week and attend university on Friday and Saturday, have been keeping busy calling on business personalities here but a meeting with the Prime Minister is not on the cards.

"We have learnt a lot from our trip here. The experience gained will be invaluable," said Trummer, who works with PricewaterhouseCoopers Ltd in Berne.