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The next level

Errol Oh

MUCH has been accomplished between Russia and Malaysia in the 35 years that they have had diplomatic ties. Indeed, Malaysia has become an important partner of Russia in this region, particularly in foreign policy.

Nevertheless, there are several other promising areas for cooperation. For one thing, there is vast scope for broader interaction between the business communities of the two countries.

This was highlighted during Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's visit to Russia last March. For example, Russia is rich in natural resources and has a strong tradition in science and technology. In turn, Malaysia has valuable experience in the market economy and in developing sound infrastructure.

A marriage of these elements certainly makes sense. Question is, how to bring together players from these two rather different spheres? In an interview with Malaysian Business, Russian Ambassador to Malaysia Vladimir Morozov talks about what needs to be done to deepen the economic ties between the two countries. Excerpts: