

Learn from the Chinese

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Abdullah: They have vast experience in R & D

BY WONG SAI WAN

BEIJING: Malaysia can learn from the Chinese experience in research and development (R & D) in high-technology sectors which, among others, showed that the use of English is important, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said.

He said that during his visit to Huawei Telecommunications Corporation Ltd here yesterday, the management told him they were using English instead of Chinese when carrying out R & D.

"Three years ago, they found that their R & D was completed faster than when they were done in Chinese. Now, English is their choice of language for research."

Abdullah said Chinese companies and universities had vast experience in R & D in the high-tech sectors and Malaysia must learn from them.

On his visit to Bioway Holdings Ltd, Abdullah said he had invited the company, which specialises in biotechnology, to take part in Malaysia's Bio Valley project.

He said he was impressed with the company's technological know-how and directed Science, Technology and Environment Minister Datuk Law Hieng Ding to lead a team to encourage the company to invest in Malaysia.

"The management was positive about our invitation."

On his aspirations during his five-day visit to Beijing and Xiamen, Abdullah expressed the hope that it would further strengthen ties between the two countries.

"We hope to expand our relationship as there are still many areas that we can work together," he told Malaysian reporters covering his visit here yesterday.

The Deputy Prime Minister

pointed to biotechnology and ICT as promising areas where Malaysia and China could expand their co-operation at public and private sector levels.

He also said the eight ministers accompanying him on the visit had very fruitful meetings with their counterparts just prior to his arrival here on Sunday.

Besides Law, the other ministers here are Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting (Housing and Local Government), Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik (Primary Industries), Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar (Foreign) and Datuk Dr Fong Chan Onn (Human Resources).

Abdullah has also been accorded a rare honour by the Chinese government as he is set to meet the top three leaders of the new leadership that took over in March.

He met Premier Wen Jiabao yesterday. Abdullah also later witnessed the signing of five memorandums of understanding and agreements between the two countries after attending a bilateral delegation meeting with Vice Premier Huang Ju.

Huang also hosted a banquet dinner for Abdullah and his delegation.

The Malaysian leader is scheduled to meet Wu Bangguo, chairman of the National People's Congress or the equivalent of the Malaysian Parliament Speaker, this morning.

Abdullah, who is here at the invitation of Beijing, will meet President Hu Jintao later this afternoon.

His trip here is widely seen as an opportunity for him and the new Chinese leaders to get to know each other better, especially since he is poised to take over as Malaysia's Prime Minister when Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad steps down later this year.