

'China sees us as trusted friend'

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KLANG: China regards Malaysia as a trusted friend and an important business partner for global prosperity, said MCA president Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting.

The high-level reception accorded by senior leaders of that country to Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Badawi during his recent visit there was a firm message of deep friendship between the two countries, said Ong when he opened the 18th Xiang Chi (Chinese chess) national competition here on Friday night.

Ong, who was part of the Malaysian mission to China, described the visit as "a historic

event" which allowed the leaders of the two countries to give their commitment to strengthen the friendship cultivated by their predecessors.

"While there, I was informed by a Chinese representative that it was rare for a deputy premier of any country to be honoured with such a high-level reception, as the one given to Abdullah," he said, adding that the Deputy Prime Minister also met the top four leaders of China.

Recently, leaders of the two countries declared next year as The China-Malaysia Friendship Year to mark 600 years of ties

since Admiral Cheng Ho first sailed into Malacca and 30 years of diplomatic relations after the visit to China by the late Prime Minister Tun Abdul Razak Hussein in 1974.

Ong said that China appreciated the support given to it in the late 80s when protests at Tiananmen Square made human rights in China a worldwide issue.

He said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had, at that time, gone against the tide and challenged America to check its own backyard first before berating others.