

Enough talk, more action, says Abdullah

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ENOUGH talk, let's see more action. That was the message from Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi to Commonwealth leaders regarding human capital development.

The Prime Minister told the executive session of the Commonwealth Heads of Governments Meeting here that the Commonwealth Secretariat had to take the necessary measures to implement human capital development in poor and developing member countries. He said the programmes must unearth skilled workers and impart knowledge, especially in the field of science and technology.

"Developed nations in the Commonwealth, too, should be ready to transfer their technology that will benefit the developing nations," Abdullah said at a Press conference after the first day of CHOGM 2005 last night.

"Only when the Commonwealth is willing to implement programmes such as this will efforts towards human capital development in developing nations become a reality. Just lip service has no meaning."

Abdullah said this when the executive session discussed international trade and the fears of developing nations, ahead of the World Trade Organisation meeting in Hong Kong next month.

The WTO issue, particularly regarding agriculture subsidy, caught the attention of all the



THE PEACEMAKER: Abdullah with Indian Commerce Minister Kamal Nath (left) and Aziz during the first executive session of the CHOGM in Valetta on Friday. — AFP picture

heads of government. The discussion that began in the afternoon of the first day of the retreat continued without any conclusion.

Others who voiced their opinion at the session included Britain's Prime Minister Tony Blair, who is also the chairman of the European Union, and Pakistani Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz.

Abdullah said other matters discussed at the executive session included allowing Pakistan to attend CHOGM again following its smooth re-implementation of democracy.

However, CHOGM felt that

heads of government, who have executive powers, should not lead the military and wanted Pakistan's President Pervez Musharraf to adhere to this decision as soon as possible.

"I gave my views that the distribution of power in Pakistan now has helped the nation achieve political stability. Chaos is on the decline. All this is due to Musharraf's leadership of Pakistan."

"At the same time, Pakistan's administration and economic development has been left to its Prime Minister. My suggestion is that the Commonwealth Secretariat continue to deal with the

Pakistani Government to assist it in all aspects relating to reformation and form a proper democracy there."

The Prime Minister also held bilateral talks with his counterparts from New Zealand, Helen Clark, and Pakistan's Aziz. In the morning, Abdullah held a discussion with the Prime Minister of Zambia, Levy Patrick Mwanawasa.

"Clark spoke about the Asean Summit to be held in Kuala Lumpur next month, while Aziz thanked Malaysians for the assistance in cash and kind extended to the earthquake victims," said Abdullah.