

Five core sector

PM identifies areas of co-operation with China

BY WONG CHUN WAI

BEIJING: Malaysia has identified five sectors - construction, information technology, education, healthcare services and franchise arrangements - as core business areas of co-operation with China.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said these five sectors could offer possible wider scope for collaboration.

He said that in construction, many Malaysian companies had good track records in the building of roads, highways, high-rise buildings, power, sewerage and treatment plants not only in "Malaysia but also in West Asia,

India and Africa.

"Joint ventures can be carried out not only in Malaysia or China but also in third countries," he said at the Malaysia-China Business Dialogue here yesterday.

More than 800 people from both the countries attended the dialogue.

Abdullah, who arrived here on Thursday, is on a five-day visit to commemorate 30 years of diplomatic ties between Malaysia and China.

He also hoped that Chinese businessmen would invest in the information and communications technology sector, adding that the

• TURN TO PACE 4



CEREMONIAL POMP: Abdullah (right) accompanied by Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao, reviewing the guard-of-honour at Tiananmen Square in Beijing yesterday in conjunction with his official visit to China. — *Appic*

Abdullah: We want more Chinese tourists

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Multimedia Super Corridor hosted 12 companies, which were joint ventures between the two sides.

He said Malaysia was also a centre for quality education and that the number of Chinese students had jumped to 10,577 in 2003 from 4,691 in 2001.

Abdullah identified healthcare services, as the fourth area of co-operation, saying Chinese tourists should take advantage of their time in Malaysia to receive dental treatment, health screening, cosmetic surgery or visit health spas.

"We would like to welcome much more visitors from China," he said, adding that more than 350,000 Chinese tourists visited Malaysia in 2003.

He said franchise arrangements was another area where both sides could work together, noting that companies like Marry Brown Fried Chicken, Sugar Bun, Dave's Deli and England Optical had