

# Abdullah, Susilo get highest Scout badge

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Once a Scout, always a Sum. Crime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, a Stout in his youth, received the highest award from the movement, the Semangat Padi Award First Class (Gold) here last night.

National chief scout Datuk Sen Di Shafie Mohd Salleh presented the medal to Abdullah, from the Scouts Association of Malaysia at its 100th year celebration dinner here.

The prime minister, "in turn, presented a similar award to Indonesian president Susilo

Bambang Yudhoyono.

Abdullah said ties between Malaysia and Indonesia had always been good, whether at governmental, businesses or grassroots level:

"This is further strengthened with the relationship between the Scouts of the two countries," he said.

Seeing the benefits of the Scout movement, Abdullah said he decided to make uniform group participation as a compulsory co-curricular activity in schools in 1984 when he was Education Minister.