



FOSTERING TIES: Abdullah being welcomed by Chinese Ambassador to Malaysia Wang Chungui and Majid (left) on his arrival at the Beijing International airport yesterday. Second from right is Shen. — Bernama picture

Abdullah arrives in China

BEIJING, Thurs. — Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi arrived here tonight for a five-day visit to China that marks the 30th anniversary of Malaysia's diplomatic relations with the world's most populous nation..

On hand to greet the Prime Minister at the Beijing Capital International Airport, were Chinese Assistant - Minister of Foreign Affairs Shen Guofang, Malaysian Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar and his wife Datin Seri Syarifah Aziah Syed Zainal Abidin and Malaysian ambassador to China Datuk Abdul Majid Khan.

A tight, mainly business-related, programme awaits Abdullah during his stay here and in Shanghai.

Over 500 Malaysian businessmen are here as part of Abdullah's delegation with at least 30 Memorandums of Understanding for joint ventures expected to be signed with their Chinese counterparts.

These include a consortium to develop a power transmission line for Tenaga Nasional Bhd, supply of raw water to China's Linyi Municipality, and a joint venture to manage a university in China while Astro, Malaysia's satellite TV network, and a Chinese company will venture into reciprocal exchange of satellite TV channels.

Abdullah will hold talks on bilateral and international issues with his Chinese counterpart, Wen Jiabao, to-

morrow and call on Chinese President Hu Jintao on Saturday.

He will also open the new RM70 million Malaysian embassy building and attend a dinner on Saturday to commemorate, three decades of Kuala Lumpur-Beijing ties established in 1974 during the historic visit here by the then Prime Minister, the late Tun Abdul Razak Hussein.

Abdullah will leave for Shanghai, China's largest city, on Sunday for an overnight trip where he is due to meet a group of prominent international investment bankers, address a Malaysia-China business forum and meet with Shanghai mayor Han Zheng. — Bernama