

# Adapt to new global order

## PM advises Wisma Putra to adjust functions and priorities

The Star - 3/4/2007.

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** Wisma Putra should relook how it conducts foreign policy as new realities have emerged, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said.

Asking it to adjust its functions and priorities, the Prime Minister said managing relations with other countries was no longer exclusively its domain.

The Foreign Ministry, he stressed, must make changes if it were to remain relevant as the principal manager of international relations.

"As a global player particularly in trade and investment, the conduct of relations between Malaysia and other countries is no longer the exclusive purview of the Foreign Ministry.

"Multinational corporations and the global civil society, exerting their influence through non-governmental forums and organisations, have become increasingly successful in putting their input into the management of the world's affairs," he said when addressing the Heads of Mission conference at a hotel here yesterday.

The weeklong conference is being attended by Malaysian diplomatic heads of mission, consul-generals and honorary consuls from 104 missions.

The triennial conference provides the opportunity for diplomats to be updated on latest national policies and also have discussions with top leaders.

The prime minister also said pragmatism would continue to be Malaysia's diplomatic stance when dealing with problems and conducting relations at all levels.

"But we should not callously abandon our principles.

"Our integrity as a nation must be maintained and our reputation as a country which honours its obligations must be protected," he added.

Abdullah also spoke on issues affecting Muslim countries including Palestine and the war in Iraq and Afghanistan that is causing growing resentment among Muslims.



**Diplomatic corp:** Abdullah and Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar getting ready for a group photo with Malaysian diplomats at the conference in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.