

# Seeking rapport with Bosnia

THE STAR : Friday 22/6/2007

## Bilateral trade minuscule

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**SARAJEVO:** Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi wants to see greater collaboration between Malaysia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Prime Minister stressed the need to build the foundation for a truly fruitful exchange between both countries to further enhance economic and social ties.

He noted that the major reason for the lack of engagement was the limited knowledge and experience about what each side had to offer.

"I would like to see a stronger Malaysian economic presence in Bosnia and Herzegovina," he said in his keynote address at the Malaysia-Bosnia and Herzegovina Business Forum during his three-day official visit.

Abdullah said bilateral trade at just under US\$2mil accounted for only a small proportion of Malay-

sia's total global trade.

Malaysian exports to Bosnia and Herzegovina comprised almost entirely electronics and electrical products while its imports consisted mainly of furniture and aluminium.

Abdullah said Malaysian companies were already involved in the construction of residential and commercial buildings while several road and highway projects were being planned.

"Another possible area is telecommunications."

He also spoke of tourism development where both countries could share their experiences and expertise to help contribute to the larger goal of conservation.

Later, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar and Bosnian Deputy Prime Minister Dragan Vrankic signed an agreement for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion from taxes on income between the two countries.



**Warm welcome:** Abdullah, accompanied by Bosnia and Herzegovina Prime Minister Nikola Spiric, inspecting a guard-of-honour at Spiric's official residence in Sarajevo yesterday. — Bernama