

# Attend WEF, Abdullah urges local businessmen

NOT - 28/1/2007

MORE Malaysian businessmen should attend the annual World Economic Forum, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

Although there is a larger number of local businessmen here this year, some regulars to the event said more should come because business was an increasingly global affair.

"Everybody here is very serious," Abdullah said to the Malaysian Press in a briefing today.

"There are a lot of interesting topics that could produce mean-



ingful discussions. You will also be able to know about global trends."

Among the Malaysian faces this year are Datuk Tony Fernandes, chief executive officer of budget airline AirAsia Bhd, and Datuk Shahril Shamsuddin, head of the Sapura Group, a firm with interests in oil and gas.

They join regular participants like president and chairman of Petronas, Tan Sri Hassan Marican, and Tan Sri Razali Abdul Rahman of the Peremba group.

The WEF this year gathers some 800 CEOs of global firms, which includes oil giant Exxon-Mobil, technology firm Google and investment bank Goldman Sachs, among others.

Abdullah also had meetings with Iraqi vice-president Adel Abdul Mahdi and Swiss President Micheline Calmy-Rey earlier yesterday.

"Adel wants a security guaran-

tee from the United States," Abdullah said.

He said that a plan to send more troops to Iraq would not be a good move.

Malaysia wants to co-operate with Iraq and it hopes that the country could unite the three main factions, namely the Sunnis, Shias and Kurds.

Switzerland has also started to contact the parties involved in the ongoing conflict in Palestine to help solve the problems there.

"Any effort must be co-ordinated, based on what is going on now," Abdullah said.