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Looking to next 50 years

Britain: Malaysia is our partner

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KUALA LUMPUR: Britain, which is joining in commemorating the 50th Merdeka in a big way, is prepared for another historic "long haul" with Malaysia.

British High Commissioner William Boyd McCleary said his country was ready to look to the "next 50 years with Malaysia as a partner."

"Malaysia has had much success in development and nation-building over the last five decades. The UK is proud to celebrate and look forward to the future with Malaysia," he said in a pre-National Day interview.

To emphasise the strong ties between both nations, the High Commission is in the midst of a campaign themed "Malaysia & UK: Forward Together", with activities focusing on education, science and innovation.

The programme of events includes those on arts and culture, and on issues such as sustainable development and climate change.

The highlight is the visit of Prince



Malaysiaku Gemilang

Andrew, the Duke of York, who arrived yesterday as the official representative of the British Government for the Merdeka Day celebrations.

"The campaign's overall objective is to reaffirm the UK's interest and commitment to work with Malaysia, as you grows towards developed nation status," said McCleary.

The envoy said the campaign also aimed to build on the solid platform of the historic Malaysia-UK partnership, and generate specific business and partnering opportunities.

UK Trade & Investment, the British Council, and Visit Britain are playing key roles in the campaign.

McCleary said about 300 British ve-

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The future: (Right) Wan Abdullah briefing (from left) McCleary, Prince Andrew and Ghani on the projects being carried out in Nusajaya during the royal visit yesterday.

terans from the Royal British Legion, National Malaya and Borneo Veterans Association and the British Malaysia Society are here to participate in the Merdeka Day celebrations.

In Johor Baru, Prince Andrew, who is the second son of Queen Elizabeth II, visited Nusajaya, Johor's new administrative capital.

He was accompanied by Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman, U-EM Land managing director Wan Abdullah Wan Ibrahim and McCleary.

"Nusajaya is currently in talks with several British universities to set up their faculties in EduCity, one of the seven signature developments in Nusajaya," said Wan Abdullah.