

Boost ties of mutual benefit

■ **From Hardev Kaur in Shanghai**

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THE time has come to enhance the bonds that will yield mutual benefits to Malaysia and China, says Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

After three decades of formal ties, he said, Malaysia realised that China was a viable destination for Malaysian products. Similarly, Malaysia also welcomed Chinese companies to Malaysia.

Abdullah invited them to use Malaysia as a

hub to venture into the larger and growing Asean market.

The Chinese consumer market is also growing rapidly and has yet to peak. The economy has registered rapid growth rates and the per capita gross domestic product has passed the important benchmark of US\$1,000 (RM3,800).

Speaking at the opening of the Shanghai BSW Petropipe Co Ltd, a joint venture between UMW of Malaysia and Baoji Petroleum Steel Pipe and Tube Corp, Abdullah said the rewards to

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