



SIGNED AND SEALED: Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar and his Chinese counterpart Li Zhaoxing exchanging copies of the signed MoUs in Beijing yesterday. Abdullah, Wen (right) and Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting were among those who witnessed the event.

Govt to help lower cost of doing business

BEIJING: The cost of doing business in Malaysia, already one of the most competitive nations in the Asia-Pacific region, will be brought down further, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said here.

Malaysia's stable political environment was further strengthened with the resounding victory of the ruling Barisan Nasional coalition in the recent elections, he told a dialogue session attended by some 800 businessmen from China and Malaysia yesterday.

"The Government will assist by taking appropriate measures to further bring down the cost of doing business in Malaysia, both direct and indirect," said Abdullah.

He said Malaysia's economy was expected to continue showing low inflation, strong current account surplus, stable monetary and exchange rates and a resilient banking sector, all of which would make the country a "very safe" investment destination.

PM: Put MoUs into effect

M'sian firms told to safeguard business reputation

BEIJING: Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi has directed Malaysian companies who have signed memorandums of understanding (MoUs) with their Chinese partners to put them into effect.

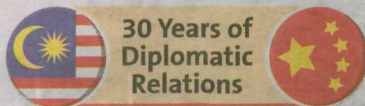
The Prime Minister said all parties must carry out "all the points of agreement" these companies had entered into.

"If they do not, it will not be good for their business and the reputation of business opportunities both in Malaysia and China," he said at the Malaysia-China Business Dialogue here yesterday.

Abdullah said Malaysia was well aware of the importance of China as a business partner, adding that China was set to play a pivotal role in creating new economic opportunities for the region and the world.

China, he noted, had joined the World Trade Organisation and progressively completed its integration into the multilateral trading system.

Malaysian businessmen, he added, saw the vast business opportunities and economic potentials in China and



"that is why they have joined me in large numbers".

Later, Abdullah witnessed the signing of 28 MoUs between the Malaysian and Chinese private sectors covering education, construction, healthcare, information technology, biotechnology, water treatment, travel services and others.

Among the companies involved were SEG International with the Huludao Municipality to manage a local university, BSA Co Ltd with Fushun Aluminum Factory in the acquisition of alloy wheels, Inti College with Tsinghua University to conduct business and engineering programmes in the university.

Pati Herba Sdn Bhd and China Bioway Biotech Group Co, which is in the process of developing an anti-SARS vaccine, also signed an MoU for research in the biovalley on traditional



Star supplement

"I like this best among the supplements." That's how Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi described The Star's special supplement to commemorate 30 years of diplomatic relations between China and Malaysia in Beijing. The two newspapers, Nanyang Siang Pau and The Star, had flown copies of their respective supplements to be placed at the Genting Bhd booth at the Showcase Malaysia in China exhibition yesterday. Looking on are (from left) The Star deputy group chief editor II Datuk Wong Chun Wai, Nanyang Siang Pau assistant news editor Eric Foo and Resorts executive vice-president Lee Choong Yan.