

'Malaysia committed to broadening ties with EU'

'In addition to its economic impact, the EU is a highly successful model of regional integration and international diplomacy,' says Mohd Najib

MALAYSIA is committed to broadening and deepening relations with the European Union (EU) community, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Najib Razak said yesterday.

"Who could afford to ignore the EU, a powerful global actor on the world stage and one of the world's leading economic superpowers? Who can fail to recognise its international reach with the collective weight of 27 countries behind it.

"In addition to its economic impact, the EU is a highly successful model of regional integration and international diplomacy," he said when opening the Malaysia-Europe Forum (MEF).

Najib said he believed the



(From left) Swedish Ambassador to Malaysia Helena Sangeland, Mohd Najib, MEF patron/advisor Tan Sri Rafidah Aziz and Sime Darby group chairman Tun Musa Hitam at MEF- EU Roundtable yesterday

EU would increasingly become more involved with the broader world order by playing its full role in the global economy and by demonstrating its leadership in the diverse areas of unity and integration, community and pluralism, governance and policymaking.

He said the EU's track record in integrating old and

new European states into a dynamic community of nations with its single market concept is to be commended and admired.

He said despite the differences in history, cultures and religious beliefs of the various people, the ethnic diversity, past wars and conflicts, these European countries have come together inspired

by one mission.

"In many ways, we are like the EU in Malaysia. We are also 50 years old and we enjoy ethnic diversity and pluralism here in our country. While we have had our own success in ethnic integration and in building a single community of Malaysians of various Asian and European origins. — *Bernama*