

11 JUL 1997

Langkawi-presidents

FOUR PRESIDENTS ATTENDING LANGKAWI INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE

KUALA LUMPUR, July 11 (Bernama) -- Four presidents and two vice-presidents are among leaders who have confirmed participation in the 3rd Langkawi International Dialogue (LID '97) at the end of the month.

Three prime ministers and several other ministers from 14 countries are also taking part in the event to be held from 28-30 July, said Science Adviser in the Prime Ministers's Department Tan Sri Dr Omar Abdul Rahman today.

The presidents are Sir Ketumile Masire (Botswana), Dr Sam Nujoma (Namibia), Yoweri Museveni (Uganda) and Dr Robert Mugabe (Zimbabwe) while the two vice-presidents are Prof John Evans Atta Mills (Ghana) and Justin Malewezi (Malawi).

The prime ministers are Pascal Rakotomavo (Madagascar), Navin Ramgoolam (Mauritius) and Prince Jameson Mbilini Dlamini (Swaziland).

Omar, who is also LID '97 International Advisory Council joint secretary, said: "The response has been overwhelming but we have to trim down the number of participants."

Earlier, he briefed reporters on LID '97 preparations and received cheques from sponsors at the Prime Minister's Department here.

Of the 250 participants, comprising international business and government leaders, 100 will be from Malaysia.

The three prime ministers, who will be attending did not include the two fueling co-prime ministers of Cambodia, Prince Norodom Ranariddh and Hun Sen who had originally confirmed participation.

Ranariddh was ousted from power by Hun Sen last weekend.

Because of the sudden developments in Cambodia, Omar said he would consult the Foreign Ministry on Ranariddh or Hun Sen's participation in LID'97.

Seychelles, Tonga, Grenada, Gambia and the Philippines will be sending ministers.

Omar said that some southern African countries have suggested that the LID be held alternately between the Southern African International Dialogue (SAID).

The matter would be discussed during the upcoming LID '97, he said.

Omar said at least 25 smart partnership experiences would be shared during the high-level conference under the theme "Smart Partnership in Action".

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is LID patron and adviser, is scheduled to deliver a key-note address at the event.

The Langkawi International Dialogue is jointly organised by the Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology (MIGHT) and the Commonwealth Partnership for Technology Management (CPTM).

The smart partnership concept - matching government, companies and workers to do business in an international context - made its debut at the first LID in 1995.

Today Omar received RM500,000 each from the three main sponsors, Malaysian Resources Corporation Berhad, Sapura Group and Telekom Malaysia Berhad.

Four corporate sponsors -- YTL Corporation Berhad, Chase Perdana Berhad, Ekran Berhad and Sungei Way Berhad -- each presented RM100,000. --  
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