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Dialogue

HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE ON SMART PARTNERSHIP FOR LANGKAWI DIALOGUE

KUALA LUMPUR, June 18 (Bernama) -- Successful small-scale to international-level practices in "smart partnership" will be featured at the third Langkawi International Dialogue (LID) from July 28 to 30.

Joint secretary of the LID '97, Tan Sri Dr Omar Abdul Rahman, said at least 25 smart partnership experiences would be shared during the high-level conference under the theme "Smart Partnership in Action".

"At the concluding session last year, the participants wanted to hear more of the smart partnership experiences...how it actually works and the elements needed to make it happen," he told a news conference at the Prime Minister's Department.

Apart from inter company-level, smart partnership concept beyond national borders such as in the running of Asean, Apec and the World Trade Organisation will be highlighted.

The dialogue will bring together 250 government leaders, including 16 heads of government, ministers from all around the Commonwealth, top corporate figures worldwide and local trade union leaders.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will deliver the keynote address. He is the patron and advisor of LID, which is jointly organised by the Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology (MIGHT) and Commonwealth Partnership for Technology Management (CPTM).

Dr Omar, who is Science Advisor to the Prime Minister and MIGHT joint chairman, said the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) would also be highlighted as an initiative to promote "smart partnership".

According to a tentative list, Cambodia's co-premiers Prince Norodom Ranariddh and Hun Sen are among the invited heads of government. Ranariddh attended last year's dialogue.

The leaders of Botswana, Malawi, Namibia and Zimbabwe -- the four countries which held their first Southern Africa International Dialogue (SAID) in May -- are also in the list.

LID's other joint-secretary and CPTM chief executive Dr Mihaela Smith said SAID, which was attended by Dr Mahathir, was inspired by the Langkawi initiative. Another LID spin-off was the Barbados International Dialogue (BID) held last year.

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.

It laid the foundation for a new business wave and heralded innovative management practices for the future based on "prosper-thy-neighbour" philosophy politically and win-win objectives in business. -- BERNAMA

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