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LID `97 to promote smart partnership

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KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - The third Langkawi International Dialogue next month will once again see the getting together of many heads of Government, Ministers and premier corporate leaders, with the main objective of spreading the smart partnership concept.

Four heads of Governments - the Presidents of Botswana, Namibia, Malawi and Zimbabwe, together with the vice-president of Ghana and the Prime Minister of Mauritius - have confirmed their participation.

The event's key theme is "Smart Partnership in Action." It will be held in Langkawi from July 28-30.

The organisers, Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology and the Commonwealth Partnership for Technology Management, expect more leaders to confirm their attendance. Invitations have gone to 16 heads of Government.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will open the meeting and deliver the keynote address.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim is also expected to deliver a keynote address at a dinner on the second day of the dialogue.

Smart partnership promotes networking not only between business sectors in a national and international context but also between the government and the business sector.

The aim is to explore business opportunities for investment, growth and prosperity.

Briefing reporters on the preparation for LID `97 at the Prime Minister's Department today, Science Adviser to the Prime Minister Tan Sri Dr Omar Abdul Rahman said this year's event was expected to attract about 250 participants.

Also present were LID `97 joint secretaries Dr Mihaela Smith, Might chief executive Dr Ahmed Tasir Lope Pihie, Rolls-Royce Intl Ltd regional executive Jonathan Asherson and YTL Corp Bhd director of corporate affairs, Roger Bambrough.

Omar, who is also joint chairman of Might and chairman of CPTM, said LID `97, which promotes smart partnership for global cooperative prosperity, had created an impact in both the developing as well as advanced nations.

He said the Barbados International Dialogue and the Southern Africa International Dialogue were initiated following the success of LID.

Omar said among the highlights of LID `97 were smart partnership at firm and interfirm level.

"Participants will have the opportunity to listen and share the experiences of selected firms on smart partnership where successes achieved through the practice of the concept will be outlined.

"Captains of industry and corporate leaders will present an overview of the change of the corporate landscape as a result of the consolidation of the smart partnership practice."

Among the experiences are the Southern African power pool and Malaysia's Multimedia Super Corridor project.

There would also be sessions on cooperative frameworks beyond national borders, focusing on experiences at the inter-country, regional and international level.

Omar said recent technological advances in the financial services would also be highlighted, including a demonstration on electronic commerce applications.

The discussions will also focus on the impact of the Internet, the global information superhighways and electronic commerce on business.

Asked how far the smart partnership concept had developed, Smith said: "At LID `95, we sowed the seed. Last year, we have seen how it has taken root. Now we have to nurture it so that it will grow and flourish."

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