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Malaysia to propose alternate year dialogue to South Africa

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - Organisers of the Langkawi International Dialogue may propose that the LID and South African International Dialogue be held on alternate years to ensure full support and participation for both events.

Science Adviser to the Prime Minister Tan Sri Dr Omar Abdul Rahman said there was a proposal to have a Southern African International Dialogue in 1998 and it may prove "a bit too much for Malaysia" to also have a LID '98.

"So we may want to propose having a LID '99 instead of one in 1998," he said at a Press briefing on the three-day dialogue that begins on July 28.

Omar who is also the joint secretary of LID '97 International Advisory Council, said the matter would be discussed in the course of the dialogue and was subject to agreement by all parties involved.

LID '97 is organised by the Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology and the Commonwealth Partnership for Technology Management.

Omar said 13 of the 16 Heads of countries invited to LID '97 have confirmed their attendance.

Jordan will not be attending while Tanzania and Mozambique have not replied to the invitations.

Heads of governments from Botswana, Namibia, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Ghana, Malawi, Madagascar, Mauritius and Swaziland are among those who have confirmed their attendance.

Among those listed as confirmed attendees were both Cambodian Prime Ministers Prince Norodom Ranaridh and Hun Sen.

When asked if Cambodia would send a representative instead of its Prime Ministers since clashes in the country broke out last week, Omar said he did not know but would seek the advice of Wisma Putra on the matter.

He said the confirmations from both Prime Ministers were received when invitations to LID'97 were sent out three months ago.

Omar also acknowledged and thanked main and corporate sponsors who contributed RM2 million for LID'97 today.

The main sponsors - Malaysian Resources Corporation Berhad represented by its executive chairman Datuk Khalid Ahmad, Sapura Group, by its president and chief executive officer Shahril Shamsuddin and Telekom Malaysia Berhad, by head of Corporate Affairs Sharifah Mohd Ismail, presented mock cheques of RM500,000 each to Omar.

Corporate sponsors who contributed RM100,000 each were YTL Corporation Berhad represented by executive chairman Tan Sri Yeoh Tiong Lay, Chase Perdana Berhad by executive deputy chairman Datuk Masidi Manjun, Ekran Berhad by chairman Ting Pek Khing, SungeiWay Berhad by group corporate advisor Tan Sri Ramon Navaratnam and Renong Berhad which was not represented at the event.

Also present was Malaysian Airlines vice president of sales Rashid Khan. Malaysian Airlines is the official carrier for LID'97.

Topics to be discussed by 250 participants include Company and Intercompany Experiences, Cooperative Frameworks Beyond National Borders, Technology and Emerging Economies and Technology in Financial Services.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will open the meeting on July 28 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.

There will also be sessions for "hands-on" application of technology in commerce and finance.

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