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Promoting philosophy, practice of smart concept

AT LID '95 we sowed the seed, at LID '96 we have seen how it has taken root; now we have to nurture it so that it will grow and flourish.

This seems to be the catch-phrase among the participants of the third Langkawi International Dialogue on "Smart Partnership for Global Co-operative Prosperity" which begins at Berjaya Langkawi Beach Resort today.

Unlike previous LIDs where the participants exchanged thoughts on getting a suitable definition and laying a workable foundation for smart partnership, the this year's LID has been set to promote the philosophy and practice of the concept.

It will promote a new approach to business practice based on partnership among government, business and workforce nationally and internationally for enhancing equitable growth based on prosper-thy-neighbour and win-win principles.

A much higher profile in terms of quantity and quality of participation from 250 last year to 350 this time reflects the importance and recognition of the concept.

This is reflected by the huge attendance especially from government and business leaders from Commonwealth countries including heads of government.

There has been a remarkable rise in participation of government and business leaders from south African nations.

The organisers of the dialogue - Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology and Commonwealth Partnership for Technology Management - had targeted to bring 250 participants to this year's dialogue.

Unfortunately, the organisers had to trim the guest list after more than 400 participants wanted in.

Finally, the organisers decided to enlarge the participation to 350.

The interactive dialogue will be held in an informal and business-like "hands-on" style with maximum interaction and free discussions between government and business leaders.

This year, the participants will focus their discussion on what really make partnerships smart. They will share their secrets and recipes for success with other participants at closed-door sessions.

According to the organisers, the features of the LID '97 are to enable the sharing of experiences and developing new perspectives through interactive sessions, facilitating the formation of self-organising multi-cultural groups and creating opportunities for networking amongst individuals from the public and private sectors.

LID co-chairman Tan Sri Tajuddin Ramli said the discussions would concentrate on four major areas, namely, real-life experiences at the level of company, inter-company and co-operative frameworks beyond national borders.

It will also discuss issues related to the successful application of technology management through smart partnership in the context of technology for emerging economies and financial services.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, LID's patron cum adviser, will open and deliver a keynote address this evening.

His deputy Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim will deliver his keynote address on Tuesday while Dr Mahathir will attend the concluding dialogue forum on Wednesday.

Dr Mahathir and Anwar will also be having special closed-door sessions

with the Heads of Government during the dialogue.

Some of the participants including President of Botswana Sir Ketumile Masire, Namibia President Dr Sam Nujoma and Zimbabwe President Robert Gabriel Mugabe and the Prime Minister of Mauritius Dr Navin Ramgoolam are among the latest heads of governments to arrive on the tourist resort island of Langkawi for the dialogue.

Others who arrived yesterday included the Ghana Vice-President Professor John Evans Atta Mills, Lesotho Deputy Prime Minister Pakalitha Mosisili, Tanzania Minister of Energy Dr Abdallah Omar Kigoda and Seychelles Minister of Industry Ralph Adam.

They were greeted by a host of dignitaries, led by LID '97 co-secretary Tan Sri Dr Omar Abdul Rahman and Commonwealth Partnership for Technology Management Limited chief executive Mihaela Smith.

Others who arrived include Jordanian Prime Minister and Defence Minister Dr Abdul Salam Al Majali and his nine-member delegation and Swaziland Prime Minister Dr Sibusiso B. Dlamini.

The Ministers here for the dialogue are Mauritius Economic Development and Regional Cooperation Minister Rundheersing Bheenick and Zimbabwe Industry and Commerce Minister Dr N.M. Shamuyarira.

Economic Adviser to the Government Tun Daim Zainuddin, International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz, Kedah Menteri Besar Tan Sri Sanusi Junid and Penang Chief Minister Tan Sri Koh Tsu Koon will also attend the dialogue.

Business leaders from Australia, Barbados, Botswana, Cyprus, Ghana, Hong Kong, Italy, Jordan, Malawi, Malta, Namibia, the Netherlands, Singapore, South Africa, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States, Zimbabwe, Bermuda, Brunei, Dominica, France and Tanzania are taking part.

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