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DR MAHATHIR OPENS SMART PARTNERSHIP DIALOGUE

KUALA LUMPUR, March 2 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today opened the first National Smart Partnership Dialogue '98 (NSPD) which, among other things, is expected to find ways to overcome the current economic and financial crisis facing the nation.

Dr Mahathir started the two-day dialogue, themed Economic Recovery Through Smart Partnership with a keynote address on "National Smart Partnership Approach to Development Since Independence."

He is scheduled to be the moderator for the first session on "Strengthening National Resilience Through Smart Partnership - Roles of Private Sector, Labour and Government."

The panellists are Education Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, Malaysian Trades Union Congress (MTUC) President Zainal Rampak and SungeiWay Group President and Group Chief Executive Tan Sri Dr Jeffrey Cheah.

Some 300 participants including cabinet ministers, political leaders, top government officials, corporate captains, trade union leaders and non-governmental representatives are attending the dialogue.

Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim is scheduled to be the moderator for the fourth session on "Strategies for Recovery - Human Capital, Values and Technology ", tomorrow.

The dialogue is jointly organised by, among others, the Malaysian Industry-Government Group For High Technology (MIGHT) in collaboration with the Academy of Sciences Malaysia, the Commonwealth Partnership for Technology and Management (CPTM), the Institute for Strategic and International Studies (ISIS), the Malaysian Institute of Economic Research (MIER), the National Chamber of Commerce and Industry Malaysia and Technology Park Malaysia (TPM).

Chairman of the National Organising Committee Tan Sri Dr Omar Abdul Rahman told a media conference yesterday the NSPD is being held to spread the concept of smart partnership to Malaysian leaders after it was successfully accepted at international level through the Langkawi International Dialogue.-- BERNAMA

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