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Expo to explore smart partnerships

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - Malaysians will need to equip themselves with adequate knowledge and business skills to succeed in a highly competitive science and technology-based world in the future.

Therefore, education will play an important role in not only spreading knowledge among the masses but also developing a creative society which will thrive in the ever-changing world.

Towards this objective, the Langkawi Accommodation for Visiting Academics or Lava will be organising a five-day exposition and convention to explore the possibilities of establishing smart partnerships between businesses in Islamic countries and those in non-Islamic nations.

The Langkawi International Islamic Science and Technology Exposition and Convention from Oct 8 to 13 will bring together scientists and businessmen from all over the world.

"But it is not only about forging business links. More importantly, it is for those from Muslim countries, especially Malaysians, to learn and acquire more knowledge on technology and business from people in non-Islamic countries," Kedah Menteri Besar Tan Sri Sanusi Junid said today.

He was speaking at the signing ceremony of the memorandum of understanding between Lava, the Institute of Islamic Understanding Malaysia and Eeman Consult (M) Sdn Bhd to organise the exposition and convention, known as Listec '98.

The exposition and convention is themed Science and Technology and The Islamic Business Communities: Towards Global Networking and Partnership.

Sanusi, who is also Lava patron, said the Kedah Government placed great emphasis on the development of education through various projects, including providing Internet access to mosques and the proposed development of the Langkawi International University of Tomorrow.

He said Listec '98 formed part of the State's promotion of learning activities and hoped that it would produce beneficial partnerships among participants.

Sanusi said the event, the largest to be held in the country, would also introduce Malaysia to foreigners and correct any misconceptions they might have of the country.

Lava managing director Hamdan Sulaiman said among the objectives of Listec '98 was to exhibit the products of technological research and development of Islamic countries and to explore employment opportunities in science and technology.

Hamdan said about 150 companies from Islamic and non-Islamic countries were expected to take part in Listec '98.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is expected to open it on Oct 8.

It will be held with the support of the Malaysian Industry-Government Group of High Technology, Malay Chamber of Commerce and Science, Technology and Environment Ministry.

The New Straits Times is the official English newspaper for the event.

Malaysia Airlines, Hotel Helang Langkawi, Utusan Malaysia, TV3 and Nauticalink Bhd are the sponsors.

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