

08/07/1998

Good response expected for Listec '98

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KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - The Langkawi International Islamic Science and Technology Exhibition and Conference (Listec '98), to be held in October, is expected to receive good response from participants as well as visitors to the exhibition despite the current economic situation.

Eeman Consult (M) Sdn Bhd chairman Datuk Mohd Aini Taib, who said this in an interview, added: "Although we have a big task ahead as many companies are faced with tight budgets, I am confident Listec '98 will be successful."

Eeman Consult is one of the joint organisers of the five-day conference-cum-exhibition to be opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The others are the Langkawi Accommodation for Visiting Academics and the Institute of Islamic Understanding. The New Straits Times is the official English newspaper for the event.

The conference-cum-exhibition, which is to be held at the Mahsuri International Exhibition Centre in Langkawi from Oct 8, has as its theme Towards Global Networking and Partnerships.

The brainchild of Kedah's Menteri Besar Tan Sri Sanusi Junid, the event is aimed at linking scientists, leading thinkers, academics, entrepreneurs, industrialists, bankers and venture capitalists worldwide, in addition to gauging the strength of science and technology as well as research and development in the Islamic world.

Dr Mahathir will deliver a keynote address entitled Science & Technology and the Islamic Business Communities. He will later have a dialogue with the participants.

This will be followed by plenary sessions featuring acknowledged international experts.

They are the chairman of the Organisation of Islamic Conference Standing Committee for Scientific and Technological Co-operation Dr Atta ur-Rahman, Malaysia Industrial-Government Group for High Technology co-chairman Tan Sri Tajudin Ramli, who is also the Malay Chamber of Commerce president, and California-based Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry president Dr Amr Mohsen.

The four parallel sessions on the first day will centre on IT; bio-technology (medical, pharmaceutical and agriculture); energy and advanced materials; advanced manufacturing, automation and robotics.

The second day starts with a dialogue with panellists who will include Multimedia Development Corporation executive chairman Tan Sri Othman Yeop Abdullah, Japanese Ambassador Issei Nomura, British High Commissioner David Moss, US Ambassador John R. Mallot and vice-president (finance) of the Jeddah-based Islamic Development Bank Dr Fuad Al-Omar.

The second half of the day will feature the latest findings, innovations and business as well as career opportunities in the areas of genetic engineering, advanced manufacturing, renewable energy and electronic commerce.

Describing the event as "timely," Mohd Aini, who is also the organising committee chairman, said the conference was not intended "to discuss the Islamic version of science and technology."

"This is the common perception. But what we are doing is totally the contrary, that is looking at the various ways Muslims and non-Muslims are able to foster co-operation.

"Islam has never stopped propagating the true values of science and technology," he said.

Mohd Aini also said Listec '98 was set to offer various career opportunities to those with the right qualification.

"Apart from holding the exhibition, companies intending to expand their operations will also be conducting recruitment exercises.

"Therefore, Listec '98 will be a one-stop centre for job seekers around the globe," he said.

At the exhibition front, there will be several anchor tenants from countries such as Malaysia, Japan, the Middle East, the United States, China, Korea and Taiwan.

Among the major exhibitors will be Kulim Technology Park Corporation and the Kedah State Economic Planning Unit.

For more information, call Eeman Consult at tel: 03-7468535 or fax: 03-7474115 or visit the Listec '98 website at <http://www.listec98.com.my>

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