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Islamic science and technology exhibition set to draw intellectuals

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THE Langkawi International Islamic Science and Technology Exhibition and Conference (Listec '98) on October 8-13 will feature a conference, business meetings, an exhibition and career opportunities in science and technology.

The event will also see participation by companies from among Islamic and non-Islamic countries.

"It is a vehicle to bring intellectuals into the state and promote it as a centre of knowledge, especially in science and technology," Kedah Menteri Besar Tan Sri Sanusi Junid told reporters after witnessing the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) in Kuala Lumpur, yesterday.

The MOU is between Langkawi Accommodation for Visiting Academics (Lava), Malaysia Institute of Islamic Understanding (Ikim) and Eeman Consult.

It marked the launching of Listec, which will focus on four main themes, namely, information technology (IT), biotechnology that includes medicals, pharmaceuticals and agriculture.

Apart from that, it also focuses on energy and advanced manufacturing that comprises automation and robotics.

Sanusi said it can be used as a ground to discuss opportunities in business, exploring possibilities of smart partnership among participants and also provides an avenue for business collaborations.

Themed "Science and Technology and the Islamic Business Communities: Towards Global Networking and Partnerships", the conference will be officiated by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who will also hold dialogues with participants and guests.

According to Lava managing director Hamdan Sulaiman, about 150 companies are expected to participate in the event.

"So far, about 100 companies have confirmed their participation," he said.

Among the sponsors are Malaysian Airlines, the New Straits Times, Utusan Malaysia, TV3 and Nauticalink Bhd.

On another development, Sanusi said the proposed Langkawi International University of Tomorrow at Pulau Tuba is scheduled to take in students by middle of this year. The university will only offer post-graduate studies in robotics, creative arts, management and leadership, tourism and sports science, he said.

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