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PM TO DELIVER KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT SMART PARTNERSHIP DIALOGUE

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 21 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will deliver a keynote address at the first National Smart Partnership Dialogue 1998 (NSPD'98) beginning March 2, which will look at how economic recovery could be instituted through smart partnership.

His will speak on "National Smart Partnership Approach to Development Since Independence" at the two-day dialogue, organised by Malaysian Industry - Government Group For High Technology (MiGHT).

Joint-chairman of the National Organising Committee for the dialogue, who is also the Science Advisor to the Prime Minister's Department Tan Sri Datuk Omar Abdul Rahman said the dialogue, themed "Economic Recovery Through Smart Partnership" will be an important event in speeding up the country's economic recovery.

Briefing the media on the dialogue, he said: "We need to hold a dialogue among ourselves and develop, understand and disseminate ideas generated on how to overcome the current economic crisis via smart partnership.

About 300 participants, including key government leaders, senior officers, political party leaders, corporate leaders and senior managers, professionals, union leaders and non-government organisations will participate in the four-sessions dialogue.

The dialogue, to be held at Sunway Lagoon Resort Hotel is in collaboration with several institutions which include among others, the Academy of Science Malaysia, Commonwealth Partnership for Technology Management and the Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS).

Others include, the Malaysian Institute of Economic Research (MIER), Malaysian Technology Development Corporation (MTDC), the National Chamber of Commerce and Industry Malaysia (NCCIM) and Technology Park Malaysia.

After addressing the dialogue, Dr Mahathir will act as a moderator for the first dialogue session on "Strengthening National Resilience Through Smart Partnership - Roles of Private Sector, Labour and Government".

Economic Advisor to the Government Tun Daim Zainuddin is also expected to attend the dialogue and provide a domestic perspective on current issues in the country during the dialogue's second session to be moderated by Transport minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik.

A World Bank representative and the Philippines' secretary of finance Salvador M. Enriquez Jr are also expected to talk on international and regional perspectives respectively.

Minister of International Trade and Industry Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz will be the moderator for the third session, on the second and final day of the dialogue, which will discuss the theme "Strategies For Recovery Through Partnering - Economic Industry and Price Stability."

Meanwhile, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar will deliver a speech on "Back on 2020 Track Through Smart Partnership" in the concluding session of the dialogue before officially closing the meeting.

Dr Omar said the dialogue was inspired from the success of a series of international smart partnership dialogues held locally and abroad.

"The inaugural Langkawi International Dialogue held in 1995, followed by another in 1996 and 1997, as well as the first Southern African International Dialogue, and the Barbados International Dialogue (BID'96) have proven the popularity of smart partnerships and its acceptance and practice by a large community," he added. -- BERNAMA

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