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LID 2000 to focus on global issues

LANGKAWI, Wed. - The Langkawi International Dialogue next year will focus on how to use smart partnerships to tackle global issues in the new millennium.

"Of course, there will be LID 2000," LID co-organiser Commonwealth Partnerships for Technology Management chief executive Datuk Dr Mihaela Smith said. The meeting would most probably be held in September.

"Obviously, it will be here (Langkawi) because it is the mother of all smart partnership dialogues. What we don't know is when it is going to be held... most likely some time in September," she said when asked about next year's LID.

The matter would be discussed by heads of state and government leaders concerned at the Southern African International Dialogue '99 in Zimbabwe in October.

Smith said besides LID 2000 and SAID '99, another dialogue - the Petra International Dialogue which carried the smart partnership theme - had been planned for the first half of next year.

The culmination of CPTM's activities in the three dialogues would be the smart partnership international dialogue on global issues, otherwise called Global 2000, she said.

Giving her assessment on LID '99, Smith said this was the most successful dialogue to date. It was an extraordinary forum of tolerance, trust and transparency.

"The reason is, as Prime Minister (Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad) said yesterday, it proved the beauty of working together and usefulness of working together."

"This smart partnership dialogue is a dialogue about economic recovery, not just a dialogue of smart partnership per se. It was done in a smart partnership way."

She said the success could be reflected from the reaction of the participants especially the nine heads of state and government leaders including Dr Mahathir.

"If you look at the heads of state and government leaders who participated here, they were impressed with the achievement of the smart partnership movement, which is LID.

"Last year, when we (CPTM) were in Namibia, its president Dr Sam Nujoma who was the host of SAID '98, asked us whether LID was a movement.

"At that time, we said we thought it was a movement. But now in Langkawi, it is very visible to everybody, the prime ministers, presidents, business leaders, union leaders, that it (LID) is a movement.

"It's a movement in action, a smart partnership at work."

Citing more evidence of success, Smith pointed to a number of initiatives born out of the three-day event.

These include the establishment of the smart partners business club initiated by First Finance Minister Tun Daim Zainuddin and a social issues group led by the First Ladies of the countries concerned.

An array of fresh perspectives on today's issues related to women had been discussed during LID '99, including their role in the development of smart partnerships.

On LID's final aim of establishing a smart partnership as a preferred approach or framework for national actions and international interaction, Smith said it would partially be achieved through the proposed setting up

of smart partnership national and regional hubs.

Through these hubs, CPTM and another LID organiser Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology, would try to create wealth and prosperity for CPTM members by using technology more prominently.

There are 53 CPTM members which include Commonwealth governments, corporations and individuals.

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