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PM to attend special session with Heads of State and media

Azmi M. Anshar; Zuraimi Abdullah

AFTER a one-year hiatus, the fourth Langkawi International Dialogue kicks off today with Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's opening address.

The Prime Minister is also expected to attend a special dialogue between Heads of State and government and editors from local and foreign media.

In his keynote address, which is expected to set the tone of the LID, the Prime Minister will address eight Heads of State and government leaders and over 350 representatives including some 250 corporate figures from 38 countries.

Dr Mahathir is expected to speak on how smart partnership can be put into practice to manage economic crisis.

For a change, the media will be fielding what is expected to be tough questions from delegates.

Questions are expected to revolve around the media's contribution towards accelerating and sustaining Asian recovery and their responsibility towards improving communication between government and the public.

Spouses of Heads of State and government leaders also start their first closed-door session today.

The four-day LID '99 carries the theme "Managing Economic Recovery for Shared Prosperity: The Smart Partnership Approach".

According to the programme, Dr Mahathir who is LID's patron, will deliver his address at a banquet at 8pm which will be telecast by RTM.

The real action will take place tomorrow with the first session on "Learning From the Economic Crisis" followed by "Accelerating Recovery Through Smart Partnership Approach".

The third day will focus on "Sustaining a Stable Future" in the morning, to be followed by a special session on "Technology and Business".

The session on "LID '99 - The Way Forward Into the Millennium" will wrap up the day's programme.

LID '99 will close with a working session on the Southern Africa International Dialogue '99.

Co-organiser Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology (MIGHT) chairman Tan Sri Dr Omar Abdul Rahman said this year's LID "will be more invigorating."

"This is because there will be more emphasis placed on the recent financial crisis, the methodology employed by individual countries in dealing with their own challenges, and how they survived through their formulae."

Like the previous dialogues, MIGHT is jointly organising LID '99 with London-based Commonwealth Partnership for Technology Management.

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