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LID-CONFIRM

SEVEN HEADS OF GOVT CONFIRM ATTENDANCE FOR LANGKAWI DIALOGUE

PUTRAJAYA, June 29 (Bernama) -- Seven out of eight Heads of Government have confirmed their attendance for the fourth Langkawi International Dialogue (LID) to be held on the resort island from July 25-28.

They are President Festus G Mogae of Botswana, Prime Minister Dr Pakalitha Bethuel Mosisilli of Lesotho, Dr Sam Nujomo of Namibia, President France Albert Rene of Seychelles, President Omar Hassan Ahmad Al-Bashir of Sudan, King Mswati III of Swaziland and President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe.

President Cassam Uteem of Mauritius has yet to confirm.

This year's theme is "Managing Economic Recovery For Shared Prosperity - The Smart Partnership Approach," said Tan Sri Dr Omar Abdul Rahman, the joint chairman of the Malaysian Industry-Group For High Technology (MIGHT).

Dr Omar, who is also joint convenor for LID '99, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will officially open LID '99, which is expected to be attended by over 250 participants from both the government and private sector.

Telekom Malaysia is the major sponsor for the event, he told a press conference here.

He also said that from the feedback received, the leaders were keen to know how Malaysia dealt with the economic crisis without disrupting its socio-economic fabric.

He said there were lessons to be learnt from the differences between affected countries which were under the tutelage of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and those who applied their own recovery measures.

Dr Omar said the leaders had also lamented that while multilateral agencies constantly urged them to deal with an economic crisis, they did not tell the countries how to go about doing it.

Unlike previous dialogues, LID '99 would delve into specific issues relating to the economic recovery and possibly look into a balanced approach in dealing with the problem.

Making its debut in 1995, LID has become increasingly popular in promoting smart partnership between the government and the private sector to the extent of spawning similar dialogues in Africa and the Caribbean.

Dr Omar said another dialogue was being planned for West Asian countries in Jordan probably next year.

LID '99 is jointly organised by MIGHT and the London-based Commonwealth Partnership for Technology Management (CPTM). -- BERNAMA

MR SHY