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Dialogue

SEVEN HEADS OF GOVT CONFIRM COMING TO LANGKAWI DIALOGUE

PUTRAJAYA, June 29 (Bernama) -- Seven heads of government have confirmed attendance at the fourth Langkawi International Dialogue (LID) to be held on the resort island from July 25-28, the organisers said.

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 111 of Swaziland and President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe.

President Cassam Uteem of Mauritius has yet to confirm, said the joint chairman of the Malaysian Industry-Group For High Technology (Might) Tan Sri Dr Omar Abdul Rahman.

This year's LID theme is "Managing Economic Recovery For Shared Prosperity - The Smart Partnership Approach," said Dr Omar, who is also joint convenor for LID '99.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will open LID '99, which is expected to be attended by over 250 government and private sector participants.

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

From feedback, he said 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 experiences of affected countries under International Monetary Fund (IMF) tutelage and nations which applied their own recovery measures.

Dr Omar said the leaders had also lamented that while constantly urging countries to deal with economic crisis, multilateral agencies did not tell them 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, 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 RYN