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350 meeting on global trends and emerging economies

THE carnival air prevailing on Langkawi a week ago due to the school holidays, took a slightly serious note this weekend, as the Isle of Legends bid "Selamat Datang" to heads of state and government, First Ladies and delegates attending the GLOBAL 2000-Langkawi International Dialogue.

Against the setting of swaying palms, balmy breezes and tropical foliage, these VIPs are being joined by leaders of non-governmental organisations, academia and senior government representatives in the fifth edition of the LID.

An estimated 350 participants will engage in dialogue over four days beginning today on the theme "Global Trends and Emerging Economies".

The first head of state to arrive in Langkawi on Friday were Namibia's President Sam Nujoma and his wife Kovambo. Their arrival was followed by President Joaquim Alberto Chissano of Mozambique later in the day.

Arriving yesterday were Swaziland's Prime Minister Dr B.S. Dlamini and his wife Jane, along with Lesotho Prime Minister Dr Pakalitha Mosisilli.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who will arrive this morning, will deliver the keynote address during the opening banquet tonight.

Today's arrivals include Botswana President Festus G. Mogae and his wife Barbara, Republic of Krygsz Prime Minister Amangeldy Muraliev and Republic of Seychelles Vice-President James Alix Michel.

Apart from Dr Mahathir's keynote address at today's opening, editors of participating media organisations would also meet to devise ways in which better dissemination of news among member countries can be effected.

Global2000-LID, jointly organised by the Malaysian Industry-Government Group For High Technology (MiGHT) and Commonwealth Partnership for Technology Management Ltd, is the second part of the Global 2000 International Smart Partnership Dialogue.

It will look into consolidating the functions of the Smart Partnership groups which are the Labour, Media, and Social Agenda Groups.

The dialogue will also consolidate the concept and practice of smart partnership leading to the preparation of a manifesto on it.

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