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Isis to hold National Youth Congress on K-economy

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - The Institute for Strategic and International Studies will organise a two-day National Youth Congress for K-economy on Monday to obtain views from the younger generation for its "Knowledge-Based Economic Master Plan".

This is the first time the congress is being held under the theme Malaysia Steps into Knowledge-based: Strategic Challenges, Strategic Reactions. It will be held at Hotel Summit, USJ, in Subang Jaya.

A total of 336 participants below the age of 35 will represent their respective national youth associations, State youth councils, youth and women's movements from political parties, students' bodies from public institutions of higher learning, private colleges and young professionals.

An Isis spokesman said the number of participants was encouraging as the initial target was 300.

"This is the first time the Government is considering the views of all Malaysian citizens even including those from secondary school students, to devise and prepare the national policy.

"We feel that it is important to involve every Malaysian in the process of devising the "National Knowledge-based Economic Master Plan" as its future success depends on their involvement and overall contribution."

Early last month, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad announced the Government's strategic plan to introduce its Knowledge-based Economic Master Plan or K-Economic Programme to further enhance the country's progress and development in the new millennium.

K-economy is an economic structure which requires many knowledgeable workers especially in robotics engineering, electronics, information and communications technology, telecommunications and bio-technology like bio-science, genetic engineering, sports science and pharmacy.

Following this, the Government appointed Isis to prepare a draft plan for K-economy with the condition that it take into account the views of all levels of society, including youths.

Its preparation will be done in stages starting with the views and opinions of the younger generation, followed by other groups.

A similar congress will also be held in other States to obtain the views of professionals from the private sector, non-Governmental organisations right down to the farmers and fishermen.

Isis anticipates that the preparation of the masterplan will take some time.

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