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Leaders want to ensure that all get chance to air views

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UNLIKE other international conferences where representatives of developing nations are not given much opportunity to express their views, efforts are being made to ensure that this does not happen at the Global 2000-Langkawi International Dialogue.

This was the main concern of leaders at the beginning of the first dialogue session on "Smart Partner Strategies - Hubbing and Webbing" moderated by Mozambican President Joaquim Alberto Chissano yesterday.

The leaders were determined to ensure that the dialogue would not be a zero-sum game for some smart partners.

Although many believe that everybody should be equal in a smart partnership, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad begs to differ, saying that "it is not necessarily equal but it can also become unequal".

The participants were told by the Prime Minister that there was a possibility that "the clever partner will try to gain everything for himself which is a disadvantage to the weaker partner".

He told the participants that the dialogue should not be a disadvantage to anyone.

"The clever partner should not take advantage of the situation, everyone should benefit ... we don't like to see a zero-sum game in the dialogue or smart partnership," he said.

Participants were also told that unlike at international fora and conferences where they came out disappointed because they were only allowed to listen to the proceedings, participants at Global 2000-LID would be given ample time to express their views.

"We normally go to international forums and conferences and end up frustrated because they become monologues ... we just go there to listen and come home dissatisfied.

"We are not going to do it in smart partnership dialogues and that's why we break into groups to get feedback and views from every participant about every issue in all the sessions," Dr Mahathir said.

The Prime Minister believed the smart partners could share experiences and expertise to benefit every member.

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