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LID-Wrapup (final)

LID 2000 COMES TO SUCCESSFUL CLOSE

By: Yong Soo Heong

LANGKAWI, Nov 22 (Bernama) -- The four-day Langkawi International Dialogue 2000 (LID 2000), the second part of the Global 2000 Smart Partnership Dialogues, came to a successful close today with almost, if not all, of the proposals or visions being moved forward.

LID 2000 was about making visions happen and this was adequately addressed, judging from the responses from the delegates, right down from the high-powered to the academia, businessmen or resource persons.

Besides having tackled what ought to be done in terms of some of the negative aspects of the globalisation process, the dialogue pressed home the point for more smart action along several fronts -- wealth generation and economic growth, health, poverty eradication, business linkages and the media.

Discussions under social issues saw repeated calls for dealing with killer diseases like malaria.

Under the growing support for "speaking with one voice" espoused by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the opening of the dialogue last Sunday, the participants spoke of the need for DDT to be re-introduced and for exploring the potential of traditional medicine.

This was of utmost importance in view of large numbers of children being killed each year from diseases that could be prevented.

The dialogue noted that there was some loss of interest from large businesses and there was a need to identify smart partners for business to ensure continuity for future smart partnership gatherings.

The dialogue also supported the view that a direct and alternative news channel be set up to provide accurate, balance and objective reports of local events and developments from a local perspective and not a biased external view.

This was in view of the fact that the media could be a source of information and misinformation.

The dialogue reaffirmed the need for establishment and consolidation of hubs or networks to coordinate the various actions under the smart partnership principle.

Under the auspices of the "win-win" concept, such hubs will nurture a cross-pollination of ideas and initiatives to ensure that they result in a better quality of life for the people in emerging economies.

-- BERNAMA

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