

17 NOV 2000

LID 2000-OMAR

LID 2000: SMART PARTNERSHIP WAY TO ADDRESS GLOBALISATION CHALLENGE

By: Ahmad Zukiman Zain & Mohd Rizal Razalli

LANGKAWI, Nov 17 (Bernama) -- The use of smart partnership to manage challenges from globalisation will become the focus of the Langkawi International Dialogue (LID 2000) beginning here Sunday, Tan Sri Dr Omar Abdul Rahman, joint convenor of the dialogue, said today.

He said the concept, which came about in Langkawi five years ago, can be used as an approach to address globalisation issues, especially among developing countries.

"In globalisation, a developing country on its own cannot really say much or get attention from the international community. But if we work together as a group to address some of these issues, there is a possibility that we may get the attention and even develop initiatives which will benefit us all," Dr Omar, who is also the Science Advisor to the Prime Minister, said at Berjaya Langkawi Beach and Spa Resort, again the venue of this year's smart partnership dialogue.

More than 350 participants will attend the four-day LID 2000. They include heads of state, corporate leaders and media representatives from various countries, including Southern Africa.

Dr Omar said this year's dialogue here would review the development of smart partnership which had also encouraged the hosting of similar dialogues in Southern Africa.

"Much can be learnt over the last five years and after 10 dialogues which had been held in Langkawi, Southern Africa and the Carribean," he said.

Dr Omar is also the Joint Chairman of the Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology (MIGHT) as well as Chairman of the Commonwealth Partnership for Technology Management (CPTM), the two co-organisers of LID 2000.

Dr Omar said the concept of smart partnership had been successfully used at local and international levels as well in the context of the government-to-private sector, government-to-government, private sector-to-private sector, government-to-trade unions and government with media and the like.

"At this year's LID, we hope to come out with something more positive as our follow-up action. I hope we can announce various initiatives on various aspects of smart partnership," he said.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who propagated enhancement of the smart partnership concept five years, will deliver a keynote address at the opening of LID 2000 on Sunday.

Meanwhile MIGHT general manager Mohd Yusoff Sulaiman said preparations for LID 2000 were well under way and about 90 percent complete.

He said about 2,000 support staff were expected to be involved in this year's LID. They include the police, media, the Protocol Division of the Prime Minister's Department and the Langkawi Hospital.

"In terms of media response, I understand that BERNAMA, the host news agency, has to date received applications from 200 local and foreign media to cover the event," he said.

Mohd Yusoff also said this year's dialogue might see participation from more Asean countries.

"Last year we had Thailand and this year we might see participants from Indonesia and Singapore," he said. -- BERNAMA

AZZ RIZ SHY

