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LID 2000

LID 2000 - HELPING TO LIGHT THE TORCH FOR NEXT GENERATION

By: Yong Soo Heong

LANGKAWI, Nov 17 (Bernama) -- When the Langkawi International Dialogue (LID) started five years ago, only a handful of heads of state, top government officials and chief executives of companies took part.

There were even skeptics who thought that it would be a one-off event. But LID, the brainchild of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad aimed at fostering smart partnership, has grown from strength to strength since then.

It even has a "sister" dialogue in the form of the Southern Africa International Dialogue (SAID), which has so far held two annual gatherings, last year and this year.

And the participants' list is growing longer each year. More than 300 will take part in the Langkawi leg of this year's International Smart Partnership Dialogue known as LID 2000, a testimony of the increasing support for this "win-win" concept.

Most of the LID 2000 sessions will be held at the scenic Berjaya Langkawi Beach and Spa Resort except for the Smart Partnership Dialogue's opening and dinner which will be held at the Mahsuri International Exhibition Centre, a stone's throw from the Langkawi International Airport on Sunday.

The rousing response certainly speaks well for an initiative aimed at sharing views and experiences on major global trends to foster smart partnerships in a wide spectrum of "win-win" situations.

Of special significance this year will be a review of the progress so far. What has SAID achieved? What has LID done so far? What is to be done next?

The answers may be found over the next few days from Nov 19 to 22 in several sessions during LID 2000 under the theme, "Making Progress from Maputo to Langkawi".

Maputo, the capital of Mozambique, was the venue of this year's SAID. And Langkawi will take on from where SAID left off.

At LID 2000, Dr Mahathir will share his thoughts on how best the smart partnership vision can be turned into a reality over the next five years. LID 2000 will be especially significant in that "hands-on" teams will highlight the practical experiences on implementing smart partnership processes and amplify the key milestones of such processes.

Such revelations will hammer home the point that smart partnership among LID partners, be they at the government or private sector level, had concretised into action and had certainly lifted off from the concept stage. And there are many examples to draw upon.

For instance, Dr Md Khir Harun, chief executive officer of Telekom Malaysia Bhd, one of the sponsors of LID 2000, is expected to reflect upon the experience of his company's investments in Africa.

Equally important issues at LID 2000 will be sessions on how best to manage globalisation in the smart partnership way and on understanding the "New Economy" and how to make the "Old Economy" work.

Several prominent speakers from Malaysia will share their thoughts on such matters which affect a lot of economies and business entities.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi will be the moderator of a special "hands on" experience session on "Sustaining Growth and Development into 2020 - Malaysia's approach to managing globalisation".

In this respect, there will be three speakers. Datuk Mustapa Mohamed,

Adviser to the Finance Ministry, will speak on "Awareness and surveillance"; Encik Ali Kadir, Chairman of the Securities Commission, (Regulatory framework for capital markets); and Datuk Samsudin Hitam, Secretary-General of the Finance Ministry, (The 2001 Budget: First steps towards the New Economy).

The Malaysian "lead catalysers" at this session are Tan Sri Francis Yeoh, Managing Director of YTL Corporation Bhd, and Khoo Chuan Keat, Executive Director, PricewaterhouseCoopers Malaysia.

As for the session on "Moving forward -- five years on..." the speakers include Bank Negara Malaysia governor Datuk Dr Zeti Akhtar Aziz who will touch on "Regulation-driven Globalisation" and Danaharta Managing Director Datuk Azman Yahaya (Preparation and Measures for Managing Globalisation).

Tan Sri Dr Omar Abdul Rahman, the science advisor to the Prime Minister and joint chairman of the Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology (MIGHT), will speak on "Prospering the New Knowledge Economy" while the Director-General of the Institute of Strategic and International Studies, Malaysia, Tan Sri Dr Mohd Noordin Sopiee, will highlight Malaysia's "Policy initiatives for the New Economy".

Datuk Ramli Abbas, Vice-President and Country Manager of Motorola Malaysia, will provide his insights on practical hands-on experience of a "Brick and Click" Corporation while Datuk Shahril Shamsuddin, President and CEO of Sapura Group Malaysia, is to participate in an interactive session on "Building Skills for the E-Economy, E-Capability and "Real" ability.

Datuk Mohamed Salleh Ismail, President and CEO of Technology Park Malaysia, will take part in a special session on the "Implications to Emerging Economies" amidst B2B (business--to-business) and B2C (business-to-consumer), the much bandied-about phrases of the the New Economy these days.

Datuk Lim Haw Kuang, Chairman of Shell Malaysia, will feature in a session on the "Old Economy and New Economy: Oil and Energy Availability", an issue very much scrutinised these days following the recent oil price hike.

There is also a special session with key media editors on how to manage bias in reporting, misuse of information and portrayal of biased perceptions by certain quarters. Participants include Datuk Ahmad Rejal Arbee, Group Editor, Berita Harian; Datuk Ng Poh Tip, Editor-in-Chief, The Star; Datuk Ahmad A. Talib, Group Editor, The New Straits Times; Mohd Nasir Ali, Group Executive Director, Utusan Melayu; and Syed Jamil Jaafar, General Manager, BERNAMA.

Every LID 2000 session has been planned to lay the groundwork for smart partnership to be even more relevant over the next five years. The quest for practical solutions to arm emerging economies for greater challenges emanating from the ever changing global trends will continue in earnest.

It simply means helping to light the torch for the next generation from now on. -- BERNAMA

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