

18 NOV 2000

LID-Preparations

LID: RESORT ISLAND ALL GEARED UP FOR SMART PARTNERSHIP DIALOGUE

LANGKAWI, Nov 18 (Bernama) -- Organisers today made final preparations for the 5th Langkawi International Dialogue 2000 (LID 2000) as more foreign leaders arrived for the four-day gathering which begins tomorrow.

The Berjaya Langkawi Beach and Spa Resort, the main venue for the dialogue, was a hive of activity with some final briefings being held and more journalists registering to cover the event.

LID 2000 will be opened tomorrow evening at the Mahsuri International Exhibition Centre (MIEC) by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Prior to the opening, Dr Mahathir will be the convener for two sessions -- the CPTM Fellows Langkawi Session and a special session on "Making Progress & Sharing Practical Experiences."

More than 300 people, including heads of state and government, top government officials, captains of industry and key media personnel from more than 20 countries will participate in LID 2000, the second leg of the Global 2000 Smart Partnership Dialogue.

Today, the joint organisers, MIGHT (Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology) and CPTM (Commonwealth Partnership for Technology Management), held their first briefing for the media on the dialogue.

The briefing was given by a panel which included MIGHT joint chairman Tan Sri Dr Omar Abdul Rahman, who is Science Advisor to the Prime Minister; CPTM Fellow Lord David Craig; Malawi's Ambassador to Taiwan Eunice Kazimbe; Ugandan Foreign Affairs Ministry Director Dr James Baba; and former president of Botswana Sir Ketumile Masire.

Other panellists were University of Houston economist Dr Thomas De Gregori; chief executive of MIGHT Dr Ahmad Tasir Lope Pihie and Lekoma Mothibatsela, representative of the office of the President of Botswana.

At the briefing, Dr De Gregori said governments around the world recognised the smart partnership concept and were paying greater attention to its practice among developing nations as a way to prosperity.

He said smart partnership could also speed up the development process of globalisation.

This evening CPTM Fellows attended an informal get-together, while Dr Omar, who is also the Joint Convener of LID 2000, gave final briefings for the Smart Partners.

Among the foreign leaders who arrived today were Lesotho Prime Minister Dr Pakalitha Mosisili, Swaziland Prime Minister Dr B.S. Dlamini and Deputy President of South Africa Jacob Zuma. -- BERNAMA

MK YBY