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LID-Message

LID: KNOWLEDGE-DRIVEN ECONOMY CREATES NEW CHALLENGES, SAYS DR M

LANGKAWI, Nov 18 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said changes in economic and technological developments are producing a new economy that is knowledge-driven and highly competitive.

And this is changing the rules of the game for the economic success of developing countries, he said.

As such, Dr Mahathir said the future of individual nations becomes more dependent than before on the capacity to acquire, transmit and apply knowledge to everyday life besides meeting international standards.

"Countries have to meet greater challenges in terms of agility, networking and learning and to arrange production to achieve quality, productivity and flexibility," he said in his message in the Global 2000-Langkawi International Dialogue souvenir programme.

More than 300 people, including government leaders, top government officials, chief executives, academia and key media personnel from more than 20 countries will be participating in the four-day event beginning here tomorrow.

Dr Mahathir, who is also the Patron and Advisor of the dialogue, said globalisation and knowledge-driven economy have become the most discussed and debated issues now.

He said the world was facing significant shifts in the economic environment characterised by changing patterns of trade and competition, technological innovation and globalisation of information.

"This increasingly borderless and information-driven economic growth is facilitated by radical new developments in information and communications technologies (ICTs), in particular brought about by the Internet," he said.

Dr Mahathir, however, cautioned that globalisation does not only create opportunities but also implies risks and uncertainties, and cited the lessons learnt from the recent economic crisis.

He said the use of ICT-based applications has increased further the vulnerability of domestic financial markets to large swings in financial flows.

"The experience has clearly shown the negative effects of globalisation on countries, where the costs far outweigh the benefits," he said.

On the LID 2000, he hoped that the series of Smart Partnership Dialogues held since 1995 would continue to bring all the participants to work in partnership to find ways and solutions to govern countries, companies and groups, besides strengthening economic resilience to withstand future crisis.

He said the first leg of the Global 2000 Smart Partnership Dialogue in Maputo, Mozambique, in August has successfully addressed pertinent issues on global trends and their implications on emerging economies.

Dr Mahathir said the LID was appropriate for everyone to look for new ideas and agendas to deal with the challenges of globalisation as well as creating awareness and the sharing of experiences.

"I also hope the philosophy, beliefs and practice of Smart Partnership will continue to prosper beyond this Dialogue," he said. -- BERNAMA

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