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LID-KIDS

MALAYSIA'S GOLDEN KIDS CLUB GETS OVERSEAS ATTENTION

By: Arul Rajoo

LANGKAWI, Nov 20 (Bernama) -- The Golden Kids Club, a pilot project to train youngsters to become future leaders, has attracted foreign leaders' attention and could well be the next item on the "Smart Partnership" agenda.

The five-year-old club was initiated by Television Airtime Services Sdn Bhd to train youngsters in the world of broadcasting and media over a period of 15 years.

The company's president, Sabri Rahman, said that the idea was to train club members to deal with current issues from children's perspective.

The club members, who made a presentation before world leaders attending the the Langkawi International Dialogue (LID 2000) at the opening ceremony yesterday, have caught the attention of London-based Commonwealth Partnership for Technology Management (CPTM), a co-organiser of LID.

"We were approached by a CPTM member last night who was impressed with us...she said it is a good idea and wanted to bring it up at CPTM's next meeting," Sabri said after the club members met Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali on the sidelines of the LID 2000 today.

Sabri said they were ready to assist CPTM to "sell" the idea to LID members who are mostly from Africa.

In fact, Sabri said the CPTM had extended a verbal invitation to the Golden Kids Club members to attend LID's "sister dialogue", the Southern Africa International Dialogue (SAID), in Uganda next year.

The club, which originated from the "Golden Kids News" programme aired over RTM 2, has between 700 and 1,000 members aged from eight to 15 years who interact through the Internet. Thirty of them also meet regularly over weekends.

"The members are achievers in school. We train them in scriptwriting, editorial reporting and children stories. As they grow, they will be exposed to other subjects," he said.

Eventually, Sabri said they wanted the members, who have also travelled to China, Australia and Brunei, to be fully equipped with knowledge and training to be meaningful leaders.

-- BERNAMA

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