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SAID-CONCLUDE

SAID 2000 AGREES TO UTILISE INTERNET FOR INFORMATION FLOW

By: Mohd Arshi daud

MAPUTO (Mozambique) Aug 23 (Bernama) -- The prosper-thy-neighbour objective of the Southern Africa International Dialogue (SAID) took a leap forward in the just concluded SAID 2000 with member countries agreeing to exploit the world wide web for information exchange.

Reading a statement at the concluding session of SAID last night, this year's host president Joaquim Alberto Chissano of Mozambique said the national smart partnership hubs of SAID members could be strengthened through webbing.

The connectivity of these hubs and the CPTM hub in London for the exchange of experiences, data and information would allow efficient information flow at national, regional and international levels, he said.

CPTM (Commonwealth Partnership for Technology Management) is a non-profit organisation that promotes opportunities and co-operation between the public and private sectors in emerging economies.

Calling for the establishment of e-communication between national hubs, CPTM hubs and business partners Chissano said this would facilitate business links and exchange of experience in doing business.

He said there would be a compilation of a data bank of smart business partners and business environments in each smart partnership member countries.

Case studies on doing business in Southern Africa would also be gathered, with the first example being the experience of Malaysian businessmen, he said.

To counter bias reporting by the western media, SAID 2000 has also decided on the setting up of an electronic system to access news direct from the source, rather than the wire services, said Chissano.

Among leaders who attended SAID 2000 was prime minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, president Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe, president Dr Sam Nujoma of Namibia and president Yoweri Museveni of Uganda.

SAID is modelled after the smart partnership meeting of the Langkawi International Dialogue.

The three-day SAID 2000 is the fourth SAID to be held. The first SAID was held in Kasane, Botswana in 1997, followed by Swakopmund, Namibia the following year and Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe last year. Next year's host will be Uganda. -- BERNAMA

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