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LID-HALIM

THINK TANK PROPOSED TO BOOST SMART PARTNERSHIP

By: Ahmad Zukiman Zain

LANGKAWI, Nov 19 (Bernama) -- The need to set up a think tank to further expand smart partnership initiatives was among ideas suggested as the four-day Langkawi International Dialogue (LID) 2000 got off the ground today.

Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Abdul Halim Ali, who is LID 2000 joint-chairman, said that the proposal was among that brought up at the Commonwealth Partnership Technology for Management LTD (CPTM) Fellows session this morning.

"The main question was how to bring forward some of the ideas discussed in Maputo, how to further expand the smart partnership as a movement," he told reporters after an unscheduled visit to the LID Media Centre at the Berjaya Langkawi Beach and Spa Resort here.

He was referring to the first part of the Global 2000 dialogue held in the Mozambican capital in August which had examined the implications of globalisation on emerging economies.

Halim, who attended the CPTM fellows session today, said that the idea to form the think tank, with its members coming from the various countries, was put up so that the various issues that were identified by the leaders could be looked into.

The CPTM fellows include heads of government.

"The think tank can examine specific issues and report back to the heads of government so that they can chart the plan of action in order for us to forward the smart partnership ideas," Halim said.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is LID adviser was the covenantor of the closed-door CPTM fellows session, which kicked-off the agenda of this year's dialogue.

Halim said that the session also discussed the need for developing countries to work together on issues of mutual concern like the question of intellectual property rights.

LID 2000, jointly organised by CPTM and Malaysian Industry-Government for High Technology (MIGHT), would review the progress made under the smart partnership concept since the LID started in 1995.

Tonight, Dr Mahathir will speak at the smart partnership dialogue opening and dinner. -- BERNAMA

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