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18 leaders among 450 confirmed for 2002 LID

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KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - Eighteen heads of government and state have confirmed their participation in the four-day Global 2002-Langkawi International Dialogue (LID) starting on Thursday.

According to an official with the Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology (Might), 27 heads of government and state had been invited to the event.

Meanwhile, South Africa Deputy President Jacob Zuma is said to have confirmed his participation in the dialogue, which has been held on the island since 1995.

Among the speakers are Energy, Communications and Multimedia Minister Datuk Amar Leo Moggie, Bank Negara Governor Tan Sri Dr Zeti Akhtar Aziz, Telekom Malaysia chief executive Datuk Dr Md Khir Abdul Rahman, Institute of Strategic Studies chairman Tan Sri Dr Noordin Sopiee, KUB Malaysia chairman and chief executive Datuk Hassan Harun and Gas Malaysia Sdn Bhd chairman Tan Sri Dr Ahmad Tajuddin Ali.

Others include science adviser in the Prime Minister's Department Tan Sri Dr Ahmad Zaharudin Idrus, who is also Might joint chairman, Securities Commission chairman Datuk Ali Kadir, and Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange executive chairman Datuk Mohammed Azlan Hashim.

A Might official also said some 450 participants from 36 Commonwealth countries and beyond are expected to participate in 2002 LID.

This shows that LID has not lost its ability to foster smart partnerships between participating countries, especially from Africa.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had said Africans had insisted the LID continued to be held in Langkawi as they preferred to see for themselves the country's dynamic economic development.

According to him, African leaders were also against the idea of confining the hosting of the dialogue to African nations.

The LID aims to foster the smart partnership principles across nations, nationalities, governments, businesses and social sectors. The participants will share experiences and lessons learnt in government, economics and socio-politics.