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`Seek new ways of co-operation'

THE further travails of 9-11 have made it more urgent for the Global 2002-International Smart Partnership Dialogue to seek new ways of co-operation among the community of nations, and go beyond the arena of business and commercial gains, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

He said this was important because the global community was now challenged by the fundamental divide in human psyche and human understanding following the Sept 11 attacks in the United States.

"We meet now in the wake of cataclysmic events of 9-11 with the global community finding itself at significant crossroads, searching for new directions as we strive to journey towards peace, security and co-prosperity for all," said Dr Mahathir in the Global 2002 souvenir programme.

"All previous dialogues dealt with issues in creating smart partnership for mutual well-being and mutual progress in development.

"We continue in this dialogue to advance further the significant progress that has been achieved at national, regional and international levels, but this time with the added dimension of the further travails of 9-11."

He added that peace and security must have the underpinnings of a shared future that was equitable and that promised a slice of the action in the larger pie of the world community.

Dr Mahathir said the fundamentals of Smart Partnership had helped countries to address the continuing major developments in the changing patterns of trade and competition, technological innovations and globalisation of information.

"Education and access to information that would pave the way towards the sharing of the fruits of a globalised knowledge society is still the way to go."

He said the unique dynamics of candour, personal interactions, trust and sharing - the tradition of Smart Partnership Dialogue - would propel partners to global co-prosperity.

This dialogue will be the 10th held so far of which Malaysia has hosted six.

Heads of Government, States or representatives of 18 countries will be attending the four-day dialogue held at the Pelangi Beach Resort.