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LID-Club 29

CLUB 29 TO START OWN DISCUSSIONS ON FEEDBACK IN SIX MONTHS

LANGKAWI, Aug 1 (Bernama) -- A grouping of young entrepreneurs, technopreneurs and professionals known as Club 29 will start its own series of discussions in six months to analyse in depth, feedback received from the heads of governments at the Global 2002 Langkawi International Dialogue (Global 2002) beginning today.

Global 2002 also incorporates the Southern Africa International Dialogue and East Africa International Dialogue.

Ahmed Izham Khairuddin, manager of membership and corporate relations of the Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology (MiGHT), said Club 29 and the heads of governments today discussed numerous issues which were narrowed down to final critical areas that needed to be addressed.

The issues discussed included the effectiveness of smart partnership, participation of developing nations in ventures to bridge the development gap, development of core economic areas and solving prolonged wars and conflicts.

The discussion was facilitated by Tan Sri Dr Noordin Sopiee, chairman of the Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS), Malaysia. The dialogue was aimed at identifying the role of the grouping of young entrepreneurs in business, politics and smart partnership in countries practising the smart partnership concept.

Ahmed Izham said the discussion also ensured that Club 29 would play a pivotal role in promoting the continuity of the smart partnership philosophy, which was initiated by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the inaugural LID in 1995.

Although Club 29 has not been officially launched, it is a loose grouping of young people who are looking into the smart partnership concept.

In an interview earlier, Dr Noordin said, "The dialogue is to decide what they (Club 29) should be -- an organisation or a process or merely a loose networking group, what is warranted from Club 29, who should be its members and what should they do."

He said Club 29 members believed that they were the prospective leaders of tomorrow and wanted to establish a closer network among themselves despite their diverse backgrounds and culture.

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