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Cordial meeting with heads of government

THE heads of government and state attending Langkawi International Dialogue 2002 had a cordial and open three-hour meeting with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday on various issues.

They include terrorism and future direction of LID and other smart partnership dialogues.

"The meeting was cordial. So far, this is the best part as far as the heads of government and state are concerned," said Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology adviser Tan Sri Omar Abdul Rahman.

He said all but a few of the heads of government and state were in the closed-door meeting.

Among them were South Africa Deputy President Jacob Zuma, Namibia President Dr Sam Nujoma and Sudan President Lt-Gen Omar Hassan Ahmed Al-Bashir.

"Everybody participated. They frankly talked about issues of great importance. (But) we are not allowed to disclose the details," Omar said.

He said the plea by the heads of government and state that Dr Mahathir continue to play a pivotal role in LID and other sister fora such as Southern Africa International Dialogue after his retirement was not raised at the meeting.