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Mahathir-Meeting

DR MAHATHIR KEPT BUSY WITH BILATERAL MEETINGS AND DIALOGUE

By: S. Retna

LANGKAWI, Aug 1 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was kept busy soon after arriving here for the Global 2002 Smart Partnership International Dialogue (Global 2002) beginning today.

Dr Mahathir, who arrived early this morning, toured a few development projects on this island resort before settling down for several bilateral meetings at the Pelangi Beach Resort, where the Global 2002 is being held.

He had a 40-minute meeting with Namibian President Dr Sam Nujoma before holding talks with the President of Sudan, Lt Gen Omar Hassan Ahmad Al-Bashir, for slightly more than 30 minutes.

Soon after the bilaterals, the prime minister proceeded to lunch at the resort and continued his hectic schedule by attending a special closed-door dialogue session for heads of state and governments and the Commonwealth Partnership for Technology Management (CPTM) fellows at Dewan Cenang, a two-storey building at the resort.

Among the leaders who attended the meeting was Nujoma, Omar Hassan and South African Deputy President Jacob Zuma while CPTM was represented by the special representative of the Prime Minister to CPTM, Tan Sri Dr Omar Abdul Rahman, and CPTM chief executive Datuk Dr Mihaela Smith.

Global 2002, which ends on Saturday, is co-organised by CPTM and the Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology (MiGHT).

"It was a closed-door session, not meant for publication but it was cordial and it was the best part of the whole dialogue. As far as the heads were concerned, they spoke among themselves and they spoke on issues of great importance to them.

"They shared experiences and because it was not supposed to be let known outside, they spoke very frankly and openly," Dr Omar said.

He said most of the heads of state and government had arrived for Global 2002 while some had yet to arrive in Langkawi.

Dr Mahathir will host a welcome reception and dinner and officially launch Global 2002 at the Langkapuri Hall of the Mahsuri International Exhibition Centre, located about 5km from the main venue of the event.

The event will be telecast "live" through TV 1 of Radio Televisyen Malaysia (RTM).

-- BERNAMA

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