

29 JUL 2002
LID-Arrival
18 HEADS OF STATE TO ATTEND LID 2002

LANGKAWI, July 29 (Bernama) -- Eighteen heads of state have confirmed their attendance at the Langkawi International Dialogue 2002 (LID 2002) to be held at the Pelangi Beach Resort in Pantai Chenang here from Aug 1 to 4.

A spokesman of the LID Secretariat said the leaders, ministers and their delegations would start arriving at this tourist resort tomorrow.

He said 10 heads of state had confirmed their arrival schedules while the rest had yet to officially notify their arrival time.

About 380 participants from 56 countries would also attend the four-day biennial dialogue initiated by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in 1995.

The delegation from Botswana would be the first to arrive here tomorrow led by its Finance and Development Planning Minister Baledzi Gaolathe, he told Bernama.

The Prime Minister of Lesotho, Pakalitha Bethuel Mosisili, Prime Minister of Mauritius, Aneerood Jugnauth, President of Namibia, Dr Sam Nujoma, Vice-President of Seychelles, James Alix Michel, and Deputy President of South Africa, Jacob Zuma, were among the heads of state and government slated to arrive on Wednesday.

He said President Paul Kagame of Rwanda, Sudanese President Omar Hassan Ahmad Al-Bashir and Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe would arrive on Thursday.

He said President of Burundi, Pierre Buyoya, President of Ghana, John A.Kufuor, and Chief Minister of Bangalore, S.M. Sree Krishna, were among the heads of state and government, who have confirmed their attendance, but have not notified the arrival time.

This include Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, Prime Minister of St Lucia Dr Kenny Anthony, Nigerian President, Olusegun Obasanjo, Prime Minister of Mozambique, Pascoal Manuel, and Prime Minister of Malta, Dr Edward Fenech.

Republic of Kyrgyz President, Askar Akaev, and the King of Swaziland, Mswati III, have also confirmed their attendance at LID 2002.

LID 2002, forms part of Global 2002, which also incorporates the South African International Dialogue (SAID) and the East African International Dialogue (EAID).

The dialogue, started in 1995, had received serious attention from developing countries as it brought together governments and the private sector to exchange views, ideas and seek the best ways to develop the countries.

LID 2002, expected to focus on terrorism, global economy and social issues, will be opened by Dr Mahathir.

Previously, the LID was held at Berjaya Beach and Spa Resort in Teluk Burau, here.

-- BERNAMA

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