

03 AUG 2002  
LID-Leaders  
LEADERS HAIL USEFULNESS OF LID

LANGKAWI, Aug 3 (Bernama) -- Heads of state and government attending the Global 2002 Langkawi International Dialogue (LID) here expressed satisfaction the forum had helped developing nations to move forward and face globalisation issues convincingly.

The leaders were grateful to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for initiating the dialogue and hoped that he would continue to actively participate in the smart partnership dialogue even after his retirement as prime minister.

Ghanaian President John A. Kufour said what LID smart partnership dialogue hit him most was the moral content of the whole idea of smart dialogue which translated into attitudes of cleverness, competitiveness and co-operativeness in the spirit of partnership.

"I think without these attitudes, globalisation definitely should be a problem to all the poor little countries in Africa and many parts of the Third World... I saw that in this group, we will not be alone, we will be part of a network to face globalisation, without which the future will be really gloomy and fearsome," he told a joint media conference by leaders at the end of the Global 2002 LID here today.

The Prime Minister of Mauritius, Sir Aneerood Jugnauth, said there had been a mass of ideas thrown up at the dialogue that could be brought home and be digested into actions to improve the living standards of the people in his country.

The move, he said, would eventually make the world a smarter globe.

Sir Aneerood said future dialogues would also keep on teaching participants a lot of things, enriching their experiences and solving problems of their countries.

Describing Dr Mahathir as a guru, he said: "I'm sure Dr Mahathir will continue to be with us."

Swaziland's King Mswati III said LID was a constructive forum for people from developing nations to share ideas on how to further develop their countries by learning from the experiences of others.

"The dialogue has been very fruitful and helpful to all of us," he said.

Swaziland will host the Global 2003 Southern African International Dialogue (SAID) in September next year.

The Global 2002 Langkawi International Dialogue also incorporates SAID and East Africa International Dialogue (EAID).

Dr Specioza Wandira Kazibwe, Vice-President of Uganda, suggested that future smart partnership dialogues should also include the participation of the elderly, which she named as "Club 25", denoting the era of the 1920s where most of the leaders were born, and the disabled.

She had been actively promoting issues on women and youth in the dialogue and she was grateful the dialogue had included the younger generation under Club 29.

Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe commended the smart partnership dialogue, saying it had enabled the use of the experiences and successes of the participating nations of the grouping and translate them into policies of their own.

He said this had enabled African countries to build a real continental union among themselves and inter-continentially with Asia.

The Prime Minister of Lesotho, Pakalitha Bethuel Mosisili, said he was

grateful the dialogue had enabled the grouping to refresh, synergise, inspire and empower participating nations through the discussions.

He said although Malaysia's success story was different from that of the African nations, Dr Mahathir was not selfish to share his experiences through the grouping.

This had paved the way for the African countries to learn from the good practices that had led to Malaysia's phenomenal progress achieved within a short period of time, he added.

-- BERNAMA

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