

31 JUL 2002

LID-Arrival (Wrap-up)

MORE LEADERS ARRIVE FOR PARTNERSHIP DIALOGUE

LANGKAWI, July 31 (Bernama) -- Bright, sunny weather greeted leaders and officials who arrived on this legendary resort island for the Global 2002 Smart Partnership International Dialogue beginning tomorrow.

Although cloudy skies and rain had been forecast for today, the sun shone brightly throughout the day.

The first to arrive today was Mauritius Prime Minister Sir Aneerood Jugnauth, who was accompanied by his wife, Lady Sarojini.

The Mauritian leader is the second head of government or leader to arrive for the dialogue aimed at creating smart partnership for mutual well-being and progress in development.

The first high-level official to arrive was Botswanan Finance and Development Planning Minister Baledzi Gaolathe who came yesterday.

South African Deputy President Jacob Zuma and Namibian President Dr Sam Nujoma also arrived today. They were followed by former Botswanan President Sir Ketumile Masire.

Ugandan Vice-President Dr Specioza Wandira Kazibwe and Lesotho Prime Minister Pakalitha Bethuel Mosisili are scheduled to arrive tonight.

President Paul Kagame of Rwanda, Sudanese President Omar Hassan Ahmad Al-Bashir and Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe are expected to arrive tomorrow.

Global 2002 incorporates the Langkawi International Dialogue (LID), Southern Africa International Dialogue (SAID) and the East Africa International Dialogue (EAID).

It is expected to focus on terrorism, the global economy and social issues.

About 450 participants from 36 countries will attend the biennial dialogue to be opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the Mahsuri International Exhibition Centre tomorrow night.

The dialogue proper will be held at a specially-erected marquee at the Pelangi Beach Resort in Pantai Chenang.

Located 8km from the Langkawi International Airport, the resort takes the concept of a traditional Malay village with guest rooms available in single or double-storey wooden chalets.

-- BERNAMA

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