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LID-Threats

NEW THREATS, ECONOMIC SECURITY ISSUES MAIN TOPICS AT LID 2002

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LANGKAWI, July 30 (Bernama) -- New threats and economic security issues faced by developing nations following the Sept 11 attacks on the United States are to feature prominently at the Langkawi International Dialogue (LID 2002).

The four-day dialogue, starting on Thursday at the Pelangi Beach Resort in Pantai Chenang, here, is expected to adopt a resolution on problems faced by the countries and action plans needed to tackle the issues.

Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology (MIGHT) Adviser Tan Sri Dr Omar Abdul Rahman said this year's dialogue, the fourth in its series, would not only deliberate on security issues from the physical viewpoint but also delve into economic security matters.

"The topics we have chosen are linked to security but not in the physical aspect but in terms of economic interest. We are going to look into how developing countries are going to handle new and emerging challenges in safeguarding their economic security," he told reporters when asked on issues that might be focused at the dialogue to be opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

This year's dialogue is themed "Towards A Smarter Globe - Enhancing Security and Prosperity for Development through Smart Partnership."

Dr Omar said preparations for LID 2002 were going on smoothly and the dialogue, to be held for the first time under a marquee, is being well coordinated by the Commonwealth Partnership for Technology Management (CPTM) and MiGHT.

"This is the first time CPTM and MiGHT are coordinating the preparations and are looking forward for the arrival of heads of state and government and their delegations," he said.

On the Smart News Network International (SNNi), launched in Kampala in August last year, he said, a workshop was just held in Kuala Lumpur to give fresh impetus to the news dissemination mechanism.

He said discussions would be held from time to time to ensure the SNNi network played a more effective role in preparing developing countries with alternative ideas on current issues affecting them.

The SNNi was jointly launched by Dr Mahathir and Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni at the International Smart Partnership Dialogue 2001 in Munyonyo, Uganda.

The New Vision newspaper in Uganda, the Mozambique News Agency and The Herald of Zimbabwe are among the media organisations from Africa participating in the news exchange.

The Malaysian National News Agency (BERNAMA), The New Straits Times, The Star and Utusan Malaysia are the Malaysian components.

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