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LID-Kyrgyz

NEWCOMER KYRGYZ REGARDS LID A FRUITFUL FORUM FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

By: Ahmad Zukiman Zain

LANGKAWI, Aug 3 (Bernama) -- Kyrgyz Republic, a newcomer to the smart partnership international dialogues, has likened the Langkawi International Dialogue (LID) to the World Economic Forum in Davos, saying that it provided an opportunity for developing countries to discuss economic issues.

Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev said many of the issues addressed here were very close to newly-independent states that were currently at the transition stage of their development.

Taking his country as an example, he said support from the international community had enabled the former Soviet republic to implement a wide-scale economic programme.

Speaking at the closing session of the three-day LID, he hailed Malaysia's contribution in assisting his country to carry out its development programme.

He recalled his first official visit to Malaysia in 1995, saying he was impressed with the economic success of the country.

"I requested (Prime Minister Datuk Seri) Dr Mahathir (Mohamad) to assist the Kyrgyz republic with an economic study," he said.

He said when Dr Mahathir visited Bishkek two years later, he handed over a long-term economic development programme, developed under his leadership and by the best of Malaysian experts.

"Nowadays this plan is called in Kyrgyz as the Dr Mahathir Mohamad's plan," said Akayev, who is attending the dialogue for the first-time.

He said the plan became the basis for a comprehensive development framework of a long-term economic vision of 2010 adopted by the Central Asian country as a national strategy for economic development.

He noted that the programme had been supported by the Asian Development Bank, Islamic Development Bank and other donors.

"Even World Bank President John Wolfensohn has acknowledged this programme to be the best strategy for economic development for a developing country," he said.

He said Dr Mahathir presented a second economic study to Kyrgyz which was significant in improving its strategies to bring in more foreign investments.

"I believe these two economic studies on the development of the Kyrgyz economy in bringing foreign direct investments as the best example of smart partnership," he said.

He also concurred with Dr Mahathir's concerns on economic terrorism, saying that newly-independent and developing countries could fall prey to economic terrorism if they did not consolidate and protect their interests jointly.

-- Bernama

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