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LID-Mahathir

SMART PARTNERSHIP NEEDS TO GO BEYOND BUSINESS, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

LANGKAWI, July 31 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Smart Partnership, promoted by the Langkawi International Dialogue (LID) grouping, needs to go beyond the arena of business and commercial gain.

As such, there is a need to seek new ways of cooperation among the community of nations, the Prime Minister said in his message in the Global 2002 souvenir programme book. Dr Mahathir is the patron and adviser of LID.

"The fundamentals of Smart Partnership that have evolved have helped us to address the continuing major developments in the changing patterns of trade and competition, technological innovation and globalisation of information.

"We meet now in the wake of the cataclysmic events of Sept 11, with the global community finding itself at significant crossroads, searching for new directions as we strive to journey towards peace, security and co-prosperity for all.

"Peace and security must have the underpinnings of a shared future that is equitable and that promises a slice of the action in the larger pie of the world community," Dr Mahathir said.

The Prime Minister said all previous dialogues dealt with issues in creating Smart Partnership for mutual progress in development.

"We continue in this dialogue to advance further the significant progress that has been achieved at national, regional and international levels, but this time with the added dimension of the further travails of Sept 11.

"As a global community, we are now challenged by the fundamental divide in human psyche and human understanding, Dr Mahathir said.

The prime minister said in this 10th International Dialogue, the tradition of Smart Partnership Dialogue continues.

The unique dynamics of candour, personal interactions, trust and sharing found in the Smart Partnership International Dialogues would definitely propel us to global co-prosperity, he said.

Dr Mahathir said education and access to information that would pave the way towards sharing the fruits of a globalised knowledge society is still the way to go.

"SMART links", the official newsletter of LID 2002, defined smart partnership as creating limitless opportunities and wealth that is shared, sustainable and allowing LID member countries to function in the global economy.

It is a new framework for governments and companies to do business in an international context, based on the idea of "win-win" and "prosper-thy-neighbour" relations.

The newsletter said Smart Partnership works by putting ideas and principles into action that can lead to rapid and accelerating growth in emerging and developed countries alike as well as deal with unexpected changes in a flexible and responsive way.

The newsletter also said Smart Partnership is just one element in the formula for success which depends on many other factors, including political and economic environment, culture and the value system of the people.

-- BERNAMA  
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