

Dr M and Thaksin to attend business partnership dialogue

ALOR STAR: Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his Thai counterpart Dr Thaksin Shinawatra will attend the "Malaysia-Thailand Technology and Business Partnership Dialogue" which begins in Langkawi on Sunday.

The two premiers will deliver keynote addresses at the opening plenary session of the two-day event, which is expected to bring together more than 300 participants from both countries.

The participants will comprise key economic development officials and policy-makers from relevant ministries, captains of industry, academic experts and entrepreneurs.

The dialogue is jointly organised by the Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology (MIGHT) and the National Science and Technology Development Agency of Thailand in collaboration with the International Trade and Industry Ministry.

Its theme is "Harnessing Strategic Business and Technology Partnership for Economic Growth."

A MIGHT official said Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi would deliver the dialogue summation and closing address on Monday.

He said other key speakers include International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri

Rafidah Aziz and Thailand's Science and Technology Minister Phinij Jarusombat.

He said the dialogue would promote techno-business co-operation between the private sectors of both countries, particularly on agro-biotechnology and agriculture, information and communications technology, the automotive, electrical and electronics sectors, ecotourism and sustainable development.

Malaysia is Thailand's fifth largest trading partner while Thailand is Malaysia's seventh largest trading partner, he said.

Malaysia's bilateral trade with Thailand amounted to US\$7.13bil (RM27bil) last year.