

02 JUL 2003

LANGKAWI-DIALOGUE

SOME 350 PARTICIPANTS TO ATTEND TECHNOLOGY AND BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP  
DIALOGUE

KUALA LUMPUR, July 2 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and the Prime Minister of Thailand, Dr Thaksin Shinawatra will attend the Malaysia-Thailand Technology and Business Partnership Dialogue to be held at Langkawi on July 27 and July 28 2003.

The two premiers would deliver an address at the opening plenary session of the dialogue, a statement from Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology (MIGHT) said today.

The dialogue is jointly organised by MIGHT and the National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA), Thailand.

It is aimed at promoting closer collaboration in economic and technological development between Malaysia and Thailand, MIGHT said.

With the theme "Harnessing Strategic Business and Technology Partnership for Economic Growth", the dialogue would bring together more than 350 participants comprising key economic development officials and policy makers from relevant ministries, captains of industry and entrepreneurs from both countries.

Deputy prime minister, Datuk Seri Abdullah Badawi would deliver an address at the closing of the dialogue, prior to that, minister of international trade and industry, Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz would present a paper on catalysing intra-regional trade through technology and economic integration.

Meanwhile, the minister of science and technology of Thailand, Phinij Jarusombat would present a paper on the role of science and technology in knowledge-based economy, MIGHT said.

The parallel sessions of the dialogue would focus on four key areas namely agro-biotechnology and agriculture, Information and Communication Technology (ICT), industry - automotive and electric and electronic and eco-tourism.

MIGHT said through the parallel sessions, concrete actions through on projects that would provide new dynamism for ensuring long term sustainability of both countries, would be explored and identified.

"With Malaysia and Thailand sharing the common objectives of promoting greater competitiveness of its economy and industry, both countries recognise the tremendous potential and and benefits that can be achieved from bilateral collaboration, technology partnership and networking," it said.

Malaysia was Thailand's fifth largest trading partner while Thailand ranks as Malaysia's seventh largest trading partner.

Malaysia records its bilateral trade with Thailand amounting to US\$7.13 billion (RM27.094 billion) in 2002.

"With the lowering of tariffs and large combined market of almost 90 million people, there is potential to further expand the two-way trade in goods and services," MIGHT said.

Moreover, with the changes in the global economic landscape, it is crucial for Malaysia and Thailand to enrich and leverage on their existing bilateral initiatives to promote economic growth.

For enhanced partnership, it is imperative that both countries continue to collectively explore new paradigm towards technology-driven competitiveness at regional and international level and also adopt a more effective paradigm that will not only sustain the current growth momentum but also helped the economies in facing future challenges.

The dialogue is expected to serve as an important bilateral platform to deliberate key issues pertaining to generating new business opportunities and confronting the regional and global economic challenges.

Further information on Malaysia-Thailand Technology and Business Dialogue can be acquired from the dialogue secretariat at 03-8888 1806 (Raja) or 1850 (Aida) or e-mail at [corpcomm@might.org.my](mailto:corpcomm@might.org.my). -- BERNAMA

SM KTC