

29 JUL 2004
LID-Mswati
ABDULLAH AGREES TO BECOME CPTM FELLOW

LANGKAWI, July 29 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi has agreed to become Commonwealth Partnership for Technology Management (CPTM) Fellow, King Mswati III of Swaziland announced here tonight.

The Swaziland monarch said the decision was reached during the first closed session of the Global 2004 - Langkawi International Dialogue (LID) this afternoon.

"We welcome you, Prime Minister, and look forward to benefitting from your wisdom and experience," said King Mswati who was the patron and advisor for Global 2003 - South African International Dialogue at the Global 2004 - LID dinner.

The role of a CPTM fellow, among others, is to provide strategic directions to the body and its smart partnership philosophy.

Former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, former Botswana President Sir Ketumile Masire and BaE Systems Vice Chairman Sir Charles Masefield are among the current CPTM fellows.

CPTM is a non-profit organisation set up in 1995 during the Commonwealth Heads of Government (CHOGM) meeting in New Zealand and its aims are to promote technology transfer among member countries.

CPTM is the co-organiser of the Global 2004 LID with the Malaysian Industry-Government on High Technology (MiGHT). The Global 2004 LID is part of the international smart partnership dialogue, which also includes the South African International Dialogue and East African International Dialogue (EAID).

King Mswati said he and Abdullah had begun discussions on the creation of a partnership between the two countries aimed at embarking on projects beneficial to both countries.

The Swazi king said he would be leading his country's private sector group to visit Malaysian industries after Global 2004 LID ended on Saturday to identify those which could be expanded to Swaziland, a landlocked country between South Africa and Mozambique.

-- BERNAMA
JM SHY