

29 JUL 2004
LID-Open
LID GETS UNDERWAY TODAY

LANGKAWI, July 29 (Bernama) -- The Global 2004 Langkawi International Dialogue (LID) gets underway today with participants set to brainstorm over how to use Smart Partnership to better the lot of their citizens, especially in developing countries.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi is scheduled to arrive later today and join 18 leaders comprising presidents, prime ministers, entrepreneurs and a king to discuss ways to put into effect Smart Partnership pioneered by Malaysia.

Besides delivering a keynote address at a welcome dinner tonight at the Pelangi Beach resort, Abdullah would chair the dialogue attended by a record 700 participants from over 20 countries in the next three days.

Earlier, he would open the Global 2004 Malaysian Technology and Business Showcase 2004 at the Berjaya Beach Resort and Spa, an exhibition displaying industrial products and services, a new feature of the dialogue.

The biennial dialogue, initiated by former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad in 1995, is into its seventh edition this year.

Themed "Towards a Smarter Globe - Reconciling Development Challenges with Global Security Through Dialogue," it aims to create awareness that Smart Partnership needs to be deepened to bring about a more meaningful and comprehensive benefits to the world's citizens.

Among the notable leaders attending the dialogue are Namibian President Dr Sam Nujoma, last year's Southern African International Dialogue (SAID) host King Mswati III of Swaziland, South African Vice-President Jacob G. Zuma and President Joaquim Alberto Chissano of Mozambique.

Special interest groups ranging from politicians, civil servants, business, labour, social groups, media, as well as those involved in arts and culture would network and interact in a sprawling marquee in an informal manner.

The industrial showcase of Malaysian products and services

called "LID Showcase 2004" reflects the country's emerging technologies and industries in various fields, encompassing research and development activities, products, solutions and services.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak would dwell on the Federal Land Development Authority (Felda) and the development of land schemes in Malaysia, a success story that could be emulated by South-South countries.

Science, Technology and Innovations Minister Datuk Dr Jamaludin Jarjis told Bernama yesterday that the LID would emphasise on the challenges to develop a more equitable world in efforts to bridge the widening gap between the rich and the poor.

-- BERNAMA

MR TOM