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LID-JAMALUDIN
SEVERAL NEW FEATURES AT THIS YEAR'S GLOBAL 2004 LID

KUALA LUMPUR, July 15 (Bernama) -- This year's Langkawi International Dialogue (LID) will have several new features, including special interactive sessions between captains of industry and government leaders aimed at exploring win-win business ventures for both parties.

The interaction at the three-day dialogue, to be hosted by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, would strengthen networking between companies and top policymakers from the participating countries, said the Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation, Datuk Dr Jamaludin Mohd Jarjis.

In briefing the media here today on the Global 2004 LID to be held on the resort island off Kedah from July 29-31, he said an industrial showcase would also be held in parallel with the dialogue session for the first time.

The showcase covers sectors such as telecommunications, information and communications technology, biotechnology, health, education, aerospace and tourism.

Government-linked companies such as Petronas, Telekom Malaysia, Tenaga Nasional and Malaysia Airlines will take part in the showcase which will reflect Malaysia's emerging technologies and industries.

Another new feature in this year's LID will be the Global 2004 Smart Partners Art & Cultural Gallery where the art and cultural works will be exhibited. They include handicraft, paintings and batik-making.

This year's dialogue, themed "Towards a Smarter Globe", had so far seen five heads of state or their representatives confirming their participation, said Jamaludin.

They include Prime Minister Pakalitha Bethuel Mosisili of Lesotho, President Sam Nujomo of Namibia, President James A. Michel of the Seychelles, the Head of Cabinet of Mauritius Harry Ganoo, Vice President Dr Nevers Sekwila Mumba of Zambia and King Mwasti III of Swaziland.

Global 2004 LID is expected to be attended by some 800 people comprising heads of state and governments, senior officials, corporate and labour leaders as well as senior professionals from the academia, media and other key interest groups, including youths.

The main issues to be discussed are on racial harmony, national stability and poverty, drugs and crimes, advancing economic development and innovation in smart partnerships.

The dialogue aims to provide an avenue for the participants to share experiences and lessons learnt in government, economic and socio-political areas as well as explore the use of resources that would benefit the well-being of the "smart partnership" community.

Elaborating on the theme of "Towards a Smarter Globe", Tan Sri Dr Omar Abdul Rahman, Coordinator of the MIGHT-CPTM Smart Partnership Hub, explained that it was premised on the fact that if the development challenges of a country were not met, then there could be security problems.

The Malaysia Industry-Government Group for High Technology (MIGHT) and the London-based Commonwealth Partnership for Technology Management (CPTM) are co-organisers of the dialogue.

Dr Omar said while the LID was initiated by former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Abdullah's commitment to continue the process was as strong as ever in view of the various advantages that the dialogue would bring to Malaysia via increased networking.

Abdullah, he said, wanted to participate fully in this year's LID to get the full experience from the dialogue.

On another note, Dr Jamaludin said among the values created out of LID was that Malaysia had been able to garner support from the African countries and make a common stand on trade issues at many international meetings.

The LID is an integral part of the "International Dialogue on Smart Partnership" series, which also includes the Southern Africa International Dialogue (SAID) and East Africa International Dialogue (EAID). --

BERNAMA

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