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Lid-Mihaela

SMART PARTNERSHIP DIALOGUES HAVE HELPED IN LEARNING PROCESS

By Umi Hani Sharani & Rosyatimah Tukimin

LANGKAWI, Aug 1 (Bernama) -- Datuk Dr Mihaela Y. Smith, chief executive of the Commonwealth Partnership for Technology Management (CPTM), says that the Smart Partnership Dialogues have achieved their purpose of enabling participating countries to learn from one another.

For instance, she said the smooth transition of power in Malaysia had been seen as among the many success stories of this country that could be adopted by other developing nations in the smart partnership movement.

Other examples of where smart partnership had worked were the adoption of Malaysia's Vision 2020 by Lesotho and the implementation of long-term development plans by Uganda.

"What occurred here (in Malaysia), especially the transition of power from (Tun) Dr Mahathir Mohamad to (Datuk Seri) Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, will be emulated by other smart partners such as Mozambique and Namibia," said Dr Smith during a break following the post-mortem meeting of the Global 2004 Langkawi International Dialogue (LID) today.

Dr Mahathir said he had learnt about the smooth power transition when former Botswanan president Sir Ketumile Masire stepped down and handed power over to his successor.

Dr Smith said leaders of those countries would be leaving office by the end of this year and there had been indications that they would follow Malaysia's footsteps as "they have seen the good side of it."

She said the smooth transition had also benefited the smart partnership movement as it helped in the smooth running of the event.

"It is not easy for anyone new to learn about the movement within a short span of time but the trust he (Abdullah) had on the organisers brought about a certain kind of value among the smart partners," she said.

She said the CPTM and Malaysian Industry-Government Group for

High  
Technology (MiGHT), the co-organisers of the LID, had succeeded in  
bridging  
the gap between the former prime minister and his successor.

"The continuity demonstrated by Dr Mahathir and Abdullah was  
important  
for the movement.

She said that CPTM and MiGHT were pleased that the purpose of  
the  
dialogue had been handled very well.

Dr Smith also said that Abdullah's "off-the-cuff" speech at the  
closing  
dinner last night showed the prime minister's appreciation for all  
the  
support given by those around him.

Abdullah had pledged that he would continue to be part of the  
smart  
partnership movement and hoped to meet other smart partners at the  
Southern

African International Dialogue in Lesotho next year.

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