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Move for CEOs to meet government heads

LANGKAWI, Wed. - For the first time, chief executive officers will be given a chance to meet heads of government attending the LID as part of efforts to create business networking.

To be known as "Business Matching", the session would enable CEOs to offer their business proposals to any head of government.

"This is an opportunity for CEOs to meet the leaders personally and offer business proposals they might be interested in undertaking in a particular country," said Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Datuk Dr Jamaludin Jarjis, who is also a member of LID advisory council.

He said the match-ups would enable both sides to enter into smart partnerships for development and business ventures.

Jamaludin said it was hoped that the meetings would also be used by local companies to showcase their successes.

"It is also a perfect opportunity for them to lay the groundwork for future business deals," he added.

Certain quarters in business circles have been lamenting over the lack of tangible results from previous dialogue.

It is learnt that the "Business Matching" session was included in this year's programme to hand over the initiative to the business community to put forward their proposals.

Several leaders have also pushed the organisers to hold the "Business Matching" session.

King Mswati III of Swaziland is one of the leaders keen to tap business opportunities from the dialogue.

He is leading a team of 70 delegates which include prominent Swazi businessmen.

This year's LID themed, "Towards A Smarter Globe: Reconciling Development Challenges with Global Security Through Dialogue", will be attended by about 600 participants from 20 countries.

They include six heads of governments, three vice-presidents and seven senior ministers.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi will deliver a keynote address at the opening ceremony tomorrow night.

Among those who have arrived here include former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Mozambique President Joaquim Alberto Chissano, Namibian President Dr Sam Nujoma, King Mswati III of Swaziland and South African vice-president Jacob Zuma.

This year's LID will also see a separate event, the Langkawi International Dialogue Showcase 2004, which will be held at Berjaya Langkawi Beach Resort.

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