

PM: Langkawi Dialogue format to be revised

MASERU (Lesotho): Malaysia will revise the format of the next smart partnership dialogue among South-South countries when it hosts the Langkawi International Dialogue (LID) next year.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said LID would centre on three major issues; poverty eradication, capacity building and human resource development.

"It is good and appropriate that after 10 years of dialogue we review how it is being held," he said yester-

day on the discussions held at the Global 2005 Smart Partnership International Dialogue here.

"We should be more focussed on the issues discussed," he added.

Abdullah had, in his opening address, indicated that a review was in order and should include how the dialogue should be conducted to achieve "tangible cooperation" in a changing global scenario.

The Prime Minister said the dialogue was still an effective platform for discussions on relevant issues and

the sharing of experiences.

He said the benefits were "the collective wisdom" garnered from views expressed by high-ranking government officers and the private sector to ensure the success of a given project.

"It is because of these benefits that I have no hesitation to stage LID next year," he said.

On the poor attendance of Malaysian businessmen at the dialogue, Abdullah said he did not know why they stayed away.

"I wish more of them had come for the dialogue. Some NGO leaders turned up," he said.

Last night, the Commonwealth Partnership for Technology Management, the co-organisers of the dialogue, presented the CPTM Companion Award 2005 to former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad and former Botswana president Sir Ketumile Masire.

Both were honoured for their outstanding contribution to the dialogue since its inception in 1995.