

THE STAR

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# An enriching experience

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## Abdullah: LID is about sharing knowledge

IF CRITICS claim that the Langkawi International Dialogue (LID) 2007 is just another case of talking shop, they are wrong.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi will vouch that this year's session has been enriching for all participating countries, including Malaysia, which managed to share its experiences, especially in human capital development and capacity building.

"Attending the LID is like going to a bazaar of ideas to do your shopping and you do not get disappointed.

"You get a good feeling participating in the Dialogue," he told a press conference at the conclusion of the Eighth LID 2007 yesterday.

Abdullah noted that Malaysian participation at LID was the most active.

"A lot of ideas were given and many of the Malaysian ideas happened to be included in the Plan of Action," he added.

To a question, the Prime Minister said that while Malaysia would not want to claim to be the "perfect role model" in eradicating poverty, building human capital and enhancing capacity building, the Government certainly enjoyed some success and was more than happy to share its ideas with the less developed nations.



**One voice:** (From left) Abdullah, Lesotho Prime Minister Pakalita Mosilili, Namibian President Hifikepunye Pohamba, Zambia's Commerce Minister Felix Mutati and the King of Swaziland King Mswati III touching the globe to mark the spirit of the LID at the end of the various sessions of the Dialogue in Langkawi yesterday.

In his closing remarks Abdullah touched on the importance of empowering women, adding that this should be looked into even with limited resources.

"Women in less developed countries are getting more interested to be empowered and educated. They are also eager to be financially independent, hence the setting up of small businesses.

"I was told that loans given to

women to set up businesses are always paid up without problems compared to loans given to men," Abdullah said.

Speaking over RTM1 on the occasion of Asean Day today, Abdullah said Malaysia fully supported the Asean Charter and hoped that it would be approved without delay.

"We believe that the Charter should be approved and accepted by all Asean countries as soon as possi-

ble as it will strengthen Asean unity.

"Asean has benefited Malaysians a lot as it has managed to maintain a stable and peaceful environment in South-East Asia over the last 40 years," he said in his address. The Asean theme for this year is *One Asean at the heart of dynamic Asia*.

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Dr M: Charge Western nations