

# Abdullah to chair Langkawi dialogue

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**LANGKAWI:** Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi will chair the Langkawi International Dialogue (LID) in August.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said 500 representatives from some 45 nations would meet to discuss human capital development, capacity-building and eradication of poverty.

Besides current and former heads of government, the three-day event beginning Aug 6 will include academicians, officials of non-governmental organisations, social activists and businessmen.

"It will be a platform for developing nations especially from the

African continent to voice their concerns and gain from the Malaysian experience.

"The chosen themes are important to discuss issues pertaining to developing nations," he said after chairing the LID steering committee meeting here.

The dialogue at the Berjaya Beach and Spa Resort would also have segments for women and youths to discuss socio-economic issues.

Syed Hamid said it was the first time the dialogue was being fully organised by the Foreign Ministry.

The Prime Minister's Department and Science, Technology

and Innovation Ministry have hosted the dialogue since 1995.

He said former state leaders such as former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, former Mozambique president Joaquim Alberto Chissano and former Namibian president Sam Nujoma were expected to attend the event.

On Abdullah's and Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong's informal meeting later this month, Syed Hamid said it would centre on overall bilateral ties, including the economic direction of the two countries.

"The relationship between Singapore and Malaysia is currently

cordial and close, and this meeting is without a fixed agenda. Nevertheless, it would be an opportunity to discuss regional issues."

The meeting on May 14 and 15 will also see participation by several Cabinet ministers from both sides.

"The informal meet is a norm among Asean countries every year, as we take turns to become host. This time it is Malaysia's turn.

"Both prime ministers have agreed to hold an informal meeting outside of Kuala Lumpur, and Langkawi was chosen as the venue," Syed Hamid said.