

19 OCT 1996

M'SIA, VICTORIA CAN ENHANCE TIES THROUGH REGIONAL MULTIMEDIA NETWORK

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 19 (Bernama) -- Both Malaysia and the Australian state of Victoria have the opportunity to build on linkages which already existed through successful collaborations in education, high technology, manufacturing, electricity reform and multimedia, said Victoria's Treasurer and Minister for Multimedia, Alan Stockdale.

Stockdale said while Malaysia was working towards achieving Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's vision on the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) by the year 2020, Victoria also shared the vision of a regional multimedia neighbourhood network of the Asia Pacific region.

He said his government had invited the Malaysian government and businessmen to join Victoria as a catalyst towards the development of a regional multimedia network.

"The catalyst, which we may form, is not exclusive. It may begin with Malaysia and Victoria. With the commitment and energy and resources our government are demonstrating right now, I am convinced it will not end with us," he said at the Malaysian-Australian University Alumni convention here.

The networked world would see linkages growing with unprecedented speed and complexity, and would produce unprecedented growth and opportunity, he said.

This, he said, distinguished both sites (Malaysia and Victoria) as the partners who could be the early catalysts for the development of neighbourhood network.

"Through the MSC technology, both Malaysia and Victoria can work together to further develop indigenous Malaysian expertise and technology for domestic and export markets," Stockdale said.

He also referred to the beginning stage of such collaboration for both Malaysia and Victoria which emphasised on state-of-the-art communications facilities to enable teaching from Australian universities.

This was through the Nilai International College project, a venture between Peladang Kimia Bhd and a consortium of Australian universities led by La Trobe University in Melbourne. The first intake would be in January 1998.

"Further development of electronic interaction will enhance and enrich education in both Victoria and Malaysia," Stockdale said. -- BERNAMA

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19/10/96 17-46MST