

12 DEC 1996

IT-Plan

IT PLAN SHOULD BE TAILORED TO SUIT MALAYSIA'S NEEDS

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 12 (Bernama) -- Malaysia's Information Technology (IT) action plan will not be a "cut-and-paste" exercise of other countries' IT policies, Malaysian Institute of Microelectronics Systems (Mimos) Bhd Chief Executive Officer Tengku Datuk Dr Azzman Shariffadeen said today.

He said the country had to develop an IT plan which took into account its unique social, political and economic set-up.

"Ours will not be a cut-and-paste IT plan," he said at a news conference in a run-up to next week's national Infotech '96 conference, here.

Tengku Azzman said based on his own experience of attending IT conferences all over the world, people were still grappling for answers on how best to tackle the IT development question.

"We are aware of what other countries are doing in terms of their IT development but let's not be overly impressed with them," he added.

Tengku Azzman, who is also National Information Technology Council permanent secretary, said steps must be taken to overcome the lingering fear of Malaysians towards IT with all sectors of the society playing their respective role.

He said IT companies for example should explore ways to make IT-related products like computers more accessible to the public by lowering down substantially their prohibitive prices or service charges.

Meanwhile, Opposition leader Lim Kit Siang urged the government to consider adding another objective to Vision 2020, to aim for a Knowledge Society which would provide the environment for lifelong learning for all Malaysians.

The DAP secretary general said such an environment was to enable Malaysians to have access to the widest variety of learning opportunities and tools to succeed in the new global economy of the 21st century.

Lim will be one of the panellists during Infotech's many discussion sessions which serve as a forum for Malaysians to contribute to the process of formulating the national IT policies and action plans.

The three-day conference starting Dec 18 will be opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad. -- BERNAMA

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