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Mahathir-MSD

MALAYSIA TO PLAY EFFECTIVE ROLE IN GLOBAL INFORMATION ECONOMY

KUALA LUMPUR, 30 Julai (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has said the development of a multimedia/information technology (IT) industry hub in Malaysia should enable the country to play a more effective role in the context of a global information economy.

The Prime Minister said the development of the hub, which had already being planned and implemented in the form of the Malaysia Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC), will serve as a springboard to regional and world markets for multimedia products and services.

"Malaysia's economic agenda for the 21st century, Vision 2020, has set a number of goals which will propel the country forward as one of the leading economies in the Asia Pacific region. Towards this end, an advanced and efficient high technology is vital," he said in his message in conjunction with "Multimedia Asia 96", a multimedia super corridor exposition and conference, to be held at the Putra World Trade Centre, here, from Aug 1 to 4.

The four-day event, organised by the National Information Technology Council (NITC), will among others feature Dr Mahathir, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and Energy, Telecommunications and Posts Minister Datuk Leo Moggie.

Dr Mahathir, who is also NITC chairman said the MSC, a 15 by 40 kilometre area encompassing the new Federal capital of Putrajaya, the Kuala Lumpur City Centre (KLCC) and the KL International Airport (KLIA) at Supang had been designated as high priority strategic sector under the Seventh Malaysia Plan.

He said a multimedia/IT catalyst centre would be located within the MSC with the participation of world class multimedia corporations which would be invited to locate their business units and R&D facilities.

As such, Dr Mahathir said the effort to host "Multimedia Asia 96" here was timely as the event would encourage multimedia leaders to be partners in the development of Malaysia's MSC.

"I welcome your participation in Multimedia Asia 96, to build relationships, create opportunities and help in the success of the Malaysian Multimedia Super Corridor," he added.

Meanwhile, Malaysian Institute of Microelectronic Systems (MIMOS) director-general, Datuk Tengku Dr Mohd Azzman Shariffadeen said over 300 exhibitors will be provided with the unique opportunity to showcase their newest products, services, and innovations to thousands of qualified buyers.

At the same time, some 20,000 professional attendees would have the chance to explore and learn more about the entire range of interactive content, services, development application, distribution and networking infrastructure, he said in his message printed as part of the conference registration form.

MIMOS, Association of the Computer Industry Malaysia (PIKOM-Persatuan Industri Komputer Malaysia) and Reed Exhibition Companies are the co-organisers of the event. -- BERNAMA

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