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IT-Selangor (With pix)

SHAH ALAM POISED TO BE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CENTRE

KUALA LUMPUR, June 3 (Bernama) -- The Selangor government has agreed to develop the state capital of Shah Alam into an information technology (IT) centre to provide a conducive place for local and international IT industries to develop.

This would also expedite the attainment of an information-rich society, Selangor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Muhammad Haji Muhammad Taib said today. Shah Alam has a population of 600,000.

The state government was ever ready to cooperate with all parties concerned, both in scientific and futuristic ways, to ensure that all the objectives to make Malaysia the information hub of the region could be achieved effectively, he said.

He was speaking at a video-conference at Telekom Malaysia's facility in Jalan Raja Chulan here in conjunction with the opening of Softopia Japan, an international software research and development base in Gifu Prefecture in Japan.

Muhammad informed the Japanese that the state government had also embarked on a plan to expand the information technology networking throughout the state, and this would be done within the perimeters of the multimedia super highway corridor.

"The state government firmly supports the intention of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to establish a multimedia information corridor between KLIA (KL International Airport) and Kuala Lumpur. We will fully cooperate in ensuring the success of this aspiration," he said.

Muhammad said the state government was inviting interested Japanese parties to assist in fortifying the IT infrastructure in the Selangor.

"We are open towards any proposals to develop the information technology industry in the state which is currently being undertaken by the State Computer and Information Network Centre.

"We also like to invite any interested parties which are keen to establish twin cities or twin townships in the field of IT within the state," he added.

Energy, Telecommunications and Post Minister Datuk Leo Moggie said the Malaysian government fully acknowledged the critical role of information and thus thrust IT into the forefront of the country's economic development programmes under the newly launched 7th Malaysia Plan.

"In this regard the government's commitment will be towards the enhancement of the country's telecommunications and IT infrastructure, which will pave the way towards the creation of a knowledge-based and information-rich Malaysian society," he said at the video-conference.

Moggie said the development of Malaysia's Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) was expected to be the catalyst for the development of the country's IT industry.

The MSC spans an area of 600 square kilometres extending from the Kuala Lumpur City Centre (KLCC) to the KLIA via the government's proposed administrative centre of Putrajaya.

Towards this end, the government would equip KLIA and Putrajaya with sophisticated communications and IT technology and infrastructure while the private sector was expected to play a major role in undertaking and providing manufacturing and high value-added IT goods and services, he said.

"With the setting up of this MSC, we would like to invite multimedia

industries to consider this corridor as a good location for their operations," he said.

"Malaysia also looks forward to the participation of Japanese high technology industries in the country's MSC."

Telekom Malaysia's chief executive Datuk Mohamed Said Mohamed Ali said as the prime telecommunications company, it was gearing itself towards providing multimedia technology with the integration of eco-technology in supporting the creation of a Malaysian Multimedia Society

He said Telekom Malaysia's major role was to build a world-class environment in the area of telecommunications infrastructure, multimedia technologies delivery and application integration solutions in meeting the needs of domestic as well as international customers.

Three other Malaysians took part in the video-conferencing. They are former vice-chancellor of UTM and chairman of Eco-Media City Research Group, Datuk Prof Muhammad Ridzuan Salleh; vice-chancellor of UPM Datuk Prof Syed Jalaludin; and director of Institute for Environment and Development (LESTARI) of UKM, Prof Mohd Nordin Haji Hasan. -- BERNAMA

ZAB YBY