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## Bill to prevent misuse of multimedia services

A MULTIMEDIA Convergence Bill is being drafted to prevent the misuse of multimedia services, as present legislation governs only the dissemination of information through single media like television, radio or printed matter.

Because the Internet and computer technology now allow for information to be broadcast in multiple media, including computers, the new legislation will govern the use of multimedia in relaying information to the masses.

Examples of such multimedia broadcasts include electronic mail and world wide web pages now featured over the global computer network Internet.

Mimos Bhd president and chief executive officer Tengku Dr Mohd Azzman Shariffudeen yesterday said the Bill is scheduled to be tabled in Parliament in September and is said to be the first of its kind in the world.

He spoke at the Kuala Lumpur Hilton, after appointing Miller Freeman Sdn Bhd as organiser of the Multimedia Asia 97 exhibition and conference, which will be held in September.

Tengku Mohd Azzman said the latest Multimedia Super Corridor flagship applications would be featured in the event. Several applications would also be exhibited, to serve as benchmarks.

The seven MSC flagship applications are telemedicine, smart schools, multi-purpose smart cards, research and development clusters, electronic government, worldwide manufacturing web and borderless marketing.

Tengku Mohd Azzman said the benchmarks were needed as comparison standards for the progress of local developers of the applications.

Among the benchmark applications to be featured is the best smart school that the National Information Technology Council has seen so far - the River Oaks School in Toronto Canada, whose principal is also expected to attend a workshop on smart schools in Universiti Putra Malaysia.

The accompanying conference, themed "Moving MSC From Vision To Reality: Benchmarking Smart Solutions," would also look at the developments of the MSC so far and what measures need to be taken to ensure it is on the right track.

Laws that will govern the MSC project - cyberlaws - are among related topics to be discussed at the conference.

Input from the discussions on cyberlaws will also be used for the Multimedia Convergence Act.

Tengku Mohd Azzman said the 41 companies that have expressed interest in the MSC and have sent in their request for proposals are also expected to put up their prototypes at the exhibition.

"We expect all requests for proposals submitted by these companies to be made public in June. By September, the selected companies can display and demonstrate their prototypes."

The exhibition to be held from Sept 16-19 is the largest of its kind in the region. More than 20,000 people are expected to visit the exhibition to be opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

About 500 industries are expected to attend the three-day conference.

Co-organisers of the event are the NITC, Mimos, Multimedia Development Corporation and Putrajaya Holdings Sdn Bhd.

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