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CAPTAINS OF IT INDUSTRIES ENDORSE MSC CONCEPT

By: Salmy Hashim

PALO ALTO, California, Jan. 17 (Bernama)--Captains of information technology industries Thursday endorsed Malaysia's Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) and seemed enthusiastic about participating in the mega project.

Many of the chief executives of companies serving as advisers on the MSC's International Advisory Panel (IAP) sounded out their optimism about the project initiated by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, and indicated their willingness to invest in the corridor.

Members of the panel yesterday met for the first time at Stanford University here to discuss the future of the MSC. The six-and-a-half hour meeting, chaired by the prime minister, produced a series of ideas from IT experts and the chief executives that could be used to guide the future direction of the multi-billion dollar project.

President and chief executive officer of Netscape, James Barksdale told Bernama that the MSC project has made Kuala Lumpur a much more attractive location for its future regional headquarters to serve Southeast Asia.

Barksdale, impressed with Dr. Mahathir's personal commitment in the project, is confident that MSC would be a success with his continued leadership.

The 30-member panel has the prime minister as chairman. The six CEOs who could not attend today's inaugural meeting were Bill Gates of Microsoft, Gilbert Amelio of Apple, Louis Gerstner of IBM, Dr. Heinrich von Pierer of Siemens Corporation, Alvin Toffler of Toffler and Associates, and Tadashi Sekizawa of Fujitsu.

Those who attended the meeting with Dr Mahathir were Tan Sri Othman Yeop Abdullah, Executive Chairman, Multimedia Development Corporation, Malaysia; Kenichi Ohmae (Japan), a world renowned IT consultant; Lester Alberthal, Chairman, President, and CEO EDS Corporation, US; Ambassador Diana Lady Dougan, Senior Advisor to the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS); Larry Ellison, President and CEO, Oracle Corporation; Fred Gluck, Vice Chairman, Bechtel Group, Inc; Nobuyuki Idei, President, Sony Corporation; Bon Moo Koo, Chairman, Lucky-Goldstar Group; Robert Madge, Chairman and CEO, Madge Networks; Jim Manzi, Chairman, President and CEO, Nets, Inc; and Scott McNealy, Chairman of the Board, President, and CEO, Sun Microsystems, Inc.

Others include Prof. William Miller, Professor of Public and Private Management, Stanford Graduate School of Business, San Francisco; Noboru Miyawaki, Senior Executive Vice President, NTT; Philip Odeen, President, CEO and Director, BDM International; Eckhard Pfeiffer, President and CEO, Compaq Computers, Lewis Platt, Chairman, President and CEO, Hewlett-Packard, Stan Shih, Chairman and CEO, Acer Group of Taiwan; Masayoshi Son, President and CEO, Softbank; Dean Michael Spence, Dean Graduate School of Business, Stanford; Gary Tooker, Chairman, Motorola; Lynton Ronald Wilson, Chairman, President and CEO, BCE, Canada's largest telecommunication's company; James Barksdale, President and CEO Netscape Communications Corp; and Robert R. Bishop, Chairman, Silicon Graphics World Trade Corporation. -- BERNAMA

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