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Croatia-MSK

CROATIA IMPRESSED WITH MSC

KUALA LUMPUR, March 3 (Bernama) -- Croatia is impressed and intends to make the Malaysian Multimedia Supercorridor (MSC) project a model for its own future development in the area of information technology (IT), visiting Prime Minister Zlatko Matesa said today.

He said that although the Central European state was small in terms of population with some five million people, the whole concept of the MSC was a good model for Croatia's future development in many areas.

"Naturally we have a strong interest because we feel it can be a window for the future," he said after attending a briefing by the Multimedia Development Corporation (MDC) executive chairman Tan Sri Dr Othman Yeop Abdullah at the MDC office here.

The hour-long briefing focused on the MSC, the catalyst for the development of Malaysia's IT and also on the role played by MDC which had been given the task of identifying the type of business to be developed for the MSC.

Matesa said that Croatia could also apply some of the basic strategies of the MSC concept as well as develop its own IT based industry by giving more incentives to Research and Development in related areas.

The Croatian leader expressed confidence that the MSC would be a success and eventually lead to Malaysia becoming a fully industrial nation by the year 2020.

Later speaking to reporters, Dr Othman said that MDC had identified the Silicon Valley in California as a location to set up a one-stop centre to handle applications from companies seeking MSC designation.

He said that 10 such centres would be opened to cater for this purpose adding that one such centre was to be in Japan.

Dr Othman said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was expected to visit Europe in May to promote the MSC.

He said the task force working on the Smartcard, electronic government and the Telemedicine projects was expected to complete its study by June.

-- BERNAMA

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