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Dr M home after a successful trip

Kamarul Yunus

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad returned home yesterday after a successful 10-day working visit to the US and Japan to promote the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC).

During his week-long stay in California in the US, Dr Mahathir visited Hollywood and the Silicon Valley where he chaired the inaugural meeting of the International Advisory Panel (IAP) for MSC last Thursday.

Among the leading corporate information technology (IT) leaders who are in the 25-member MSC panel are Microsoft's Bill Gates, IBM's Louis Gerstner, Fujitsu's Tadashi Sekizawa and Siemens' Heinrich von Pierer as well as Toffler & Associates' Alvin Toffler.

Also in the panel is Malaysia's Multimedia Development Corp (MDC) executive chairman, Tan Sri Dr Othman Yeop Abdullah.

Energy, Telecommunications and Posts Minister Datuk Leo Moggie, who is not a member of the panel, was also in the Malaysian delegation to the US and Japan.

In Japan, Dr Mahathir addressed some 50 leading IT corporate leaders on the MSC during a conference organised by NTT Corp.

The Japanese corporate leaders who attended the conference included chief executives from the Oki Electric Co, Canon Inc, NEC Corp, Sony Corp, Sharp Corp, Hitachi Ltd, Nissho Iwai Corp, Sumitomo Corp, Mitsubishi Electric Corp and Ricoh Ltd.

Dr Mahathir had told a press conference in Tokyo more than 30 companies have expressed interest in investing in the MSC.

The Prime Minister was greeted upon arrival from Tokyo by his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, daughter Maizura and several ministers and deputy ministers at the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah International Airport in Subang.

He arrived at the airport at 4.10am on a Malaysia Airlines' Boeing 747 from Narita International Airport.

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