

18 DEC 1997

DR MAHATHIR TO OPEN IT ROUNDTABLE IN FEBRUARY

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 18 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will open a Roundtable on "Electronic Communities in Asia" on Feb 12 and 13 here, a spokeswoman of the organisers said today.

Datuk Paddy Bowie, speaking on behalf of the co-organiser Economist Conferences, said the Roundtable would focus on the rapid developments in the information technology industry in the Asia-Pacific region.

The Roundtable, also organised by the Multimedia Development Corporation (MDC), will coincide with the second meeting of the International Advisory Panel (IAP) of the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC).

Dr Mahathir is also the IAP chairman.

The MSC is a 750-sq km zone south of here devoted the development of multimedia services and products.

"It will examine many issues of importance to the Malaysian as well as the regional economy - such as the growth projections for electronic commerce and the private sector investment opportunities," she said.

Many international personalities are expected to participate such as NEC chairman Tadahiro Sekimoto, Acer president Stan Shih, IT expert Kenichi Ohmae and Lady Diana Dougan, who is the senior advisor of the Centre of Strategic and International Studies, she said. -- BERNAMA

TCL rn