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Ericsson-MS

ERICSSON BOSS SITS ON ADVISORY PANEL OF MSC

KUALA LUMPUR, May 21 (Bernama) -- Ericsson president and chief executive officer Dr Lars Ramqvist has been appointed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to the international advisory panel (IAP) of the proposed Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC).

"I am deeply honoured by this gracious gesture and look forward to working and meeting with other members of the panel who are world leaders in their respective areas and hope to contribute positively and actively towards the success of the MSC," he said in a statement issued by Ericsson Telecommunications Sdn Bhd here today.

Dr Ramqvist said he had followed with great interest the development in Malaysia, particularly that of the MSC which he described as a most dynamic and visionary development which had captured world interest.

He said as a representative of a world leading organisation in the telecommunications industry, he hoped that he could share Ericsson's experience and expertise in the development of the MSC.

Dr Ramqvist, who is also a member of the European Roundtable of Industrialists, said the panel comprised highly regarded world leaders representing an impressive amount of knowledge in the area of information technology.

The 30-member panel, including Dr Mahathir and Multimedia Development Corporation executive chairman Tan Sri Dr Othman Yeop Abdullah, included the luminaries of the IT industry.

The IAP had its first meeting in Palo Alto, California, in January and panel members agreed to hold their next meeting in January next year here.

Among the 28 international members of the IAP are Bill Gates of Microsoft, Louis Gerstner of IBM and Gilbert Amelio of Apple.

Dr Ramqvist said Ericsson had applied to be on the MSC for operations in the field of software design and production and hoped the application would be met positively.

"I look forward to further development of knowledge workers and competence enhancement amongst staff, who we surely will employ in support of the MSC," he said.

Ericsson has more than 600 local technical specialists who had been given extensive training in the latest telecommunications technology either in Sweden or at the Ericsson Academy in Shah Alam, he said.

He also disclosed that on Friday, Ericsson in Stockholm together with the Multimedia Development Corporation (MDC) would jointly host an Executive Roundtable with senior executives of Scandinavian companies who would be able to gain insight into the development of the MSC.

"I understand that the delegation of 22 senior officials from Malaysia will be led by the Minister of Energy, Telecommunications and Posts Datuk Leo Moggie who himself is a very knowledgeable person on the development of telecommunication infrastructure in Malaysia," he added.

Also in the Malaysian delegation to Stockholm are the Chief Secretary to the Government Datuk Abdul Halim Ali and task force leaders of the seven flagship applications on the MSC.

Dr Ramqvist, who met Dr Mahathir in London yesterday, also briefed the Prime Minister on Ericsson's participation and involvement in the MSC and the company's decision to make Malaysia one of the manufacturing centres for the production of mobile telephones.

The production facilities which will be located at Shah Alam, will

produce mobile telephones for export in the Asia Pacific region and employ several hundred persons within two-three years. The first output is expected by December this year.

He told the Prime Minister that the decision taken to have this production facilities in Malaysia manifested Ericsson's long-term commitment and confidence in Malaysia as an economically strong country with professional competence available. -- BERNAMA

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