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Expert: Project is right initiative at right time

The Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) project in Malaysia has been described as "the right initiative at the right time" by the executive director of Price Waterhouse Technology Centre in Menlo Park, California.

George Turner, also a consultant of global consulting firm Price Waterhouse Incorporated, saluted Malaysia and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for creating the supporting infrastructure for multimedia and information technology (IT) industry developments.

"In many developed societies, the absence of political will and the obstacles posed by the absence of legislation and other protective mechanisms inhibit the growth of high technology systems.

"Malaysia appears to be dealing with these issues very well by providing the right ingredients to make the super corridor and its applications not only a reality but also viable," Turner said.

Turner was speaking to a press conference yesterday after a briefing on "Building the Multimedia Super Corridor - A Look into the Future" jointly conducted by Price Waterhouse with the Multimedia Development Corporation and Malaysian Institute of Microelectronic Systems in Kuala Lumpur.

"We regard the MSC initiative as extremely timely ... as a testbed for the development of new multimedia applications," he said. Turner was referring to the MSC tapping into the growing demand for higher bandwidths for multimedia applications due to the "Internet revolution".

In particular, Turner recognised the potential for Malaysia to become a global leader in the field of telemedicine. This is due to the recognition of Cyberlaws in the MSC to protect intellectual property assets.

Turner explained that concerns of liability risk is the main factor which impedes the growth of telemedicine in other countries.

"Protecting the incentive to create and add value to intellectual property of all kinds is crucial to building multimedia-based industries and the MSC recognises this."

The briefing was targeted at representatives of IT-related companies.

The other speakers at the briefing were MDC executive chairman Tan Sri Dr Othman Yeop Abdullah, MIMOS president and chief executive officer Datuk Mohd Azzman Shariffadeen.

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