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Gaining insight into our IT venture

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - Several foreign dignitaries, who attended the two-day Langkawi International Dialogue which ended yesterday, were today given an insight into Malaysia's venture in Information Technology as the nation moves into the next millienium.

Their morning began at the Bukit Jalil Technology Park where they were hosted to breakfast by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim. Also present was the wife of the Deputy Prime Minister, Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail.

Those who toured the facility were Sir Ketumile Masire (President of Botswana) and his wife Lady Oleblle Masire; Dr Sam Nujomo (President of Namibia); J.C Malewezi (Vice-President of Malawi); Prof John Evens Atta Mills (Vice-President of Ghana); and Specioza Wandira Kazibwe (Vice-President of Uganda).

Other dignitaries were Herizo Razafimahaleo (Vice-President and Foreign Minister of Madagascar); Dr B.S. Dlamini (Prime Minister of Swaziland) and his wife Madam Dlamini; Dr Abdel Salam Al Majali (Prime Minister & Minister of Defence of Jordan) and Dr Navinchandra Rangoolam (Prime Minister of Mauritius).

The visitors were then taken to the Universiti Putra Malaysia-Malaysia Technology Development Corporation Technology Incubation Centre 1 in Serdang.

Here, they had a first-hand view of the facility which is home to seven newly-formed high-tech companies in the fields of multimedia and biotechnology.

The RM3 million centre, with Time-Telekom's earth satellite station situated nearby, was officially opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad last April.

Later in the morning, the visitors were taken to Putrajaya, the intelligent city which lies in the middle of the Multimedia Super Corridor and which will be developed based on a teleport concept incorporating the latest in terms of technological advancements.

The foreign guests were then taken to the Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Sepang where they were hosted to lunch by Dr Mahathir at the Concorde Inn.

They were later taken on a tour of the communications tower and several other areas of the airport by senior KLIA officials.

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