

15/01/1997

Global heavyweights in Malaysian MSC panel (HL)

Calvin Goh in Los Angeles

TWENTY-EIGHT leaders in the information technology industry have been named to the International Advisory Panel that Malaysia has formed to guide the development of its Multimedia Super Corridor.

The 30-member IAP is chaired by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and also includes Multimedia Development Corporation executive chairman Tan Sri Dr Othman Yeop Abdullah.

The list is a who's who of the world's IT industry and includes Bill Gates, the CEO of Microsoft; Gilbert Amelio, chairman and CEO of Apple; James Barksdale, president and CEO of Netscape; and Lewis Platt, chairman and CEO of Hewlett-Packard. (Please see Page 2.)

The names were released in a statement by the Multimedia Development Corporation here yesterday.

The primary responsibility of the IAP members is to provide advice and counsel to the Prime Minister and the Malaysian Government on strategic issues related to the MSC.

These include infrastructure and the environment, policies and cyberlaws, marketing and incentives, and the development of domestic industries.

The MSC, designed specifically to attract leading developers of multimedia technologies, will be equipped with the most advanced computer and telecommunications network and a new international airport.

The statement said partners in the project would also benefit from the new policies and cyberlaws designed to encourage electronic commerce, facilitate the development of multimedia applications and establish safeguards for the protection of intellectual property.

The other members of the IAP are: Larry Ellison (CEO of Oracle), Koo Bon Moo (CEO and vice-chairman of South Korea's LG Group), Nobuyuki Idei (president and COO of Sony Corporation), Dr Kenichi Ohmae (Chancellor's Professor, UCLA, and visiting professor, Stanford University), Lester Alberthal (chairman, president and CEO of EDS), Robert Bishop (chairman Silicon Graphics World Trade), Ambassador Diana Lady Dougan (senior adviser to the Centre for Strategic and International Studies);

Louis Gerstner (CEO of IBM), Fred Gluck (vice-chairman, Bechtel), Robert Madge (chairman and CEO, Madge), Jim Manzi (CEO, Nets Inc), Scott McNealy (chairman, president and CEO, Sun Microsystems), Prof William Miller (Stanford University's Graduate School of Business);

Noboru Miyawaki (senior executive vice-president, NTT of Japan), Philip Odeen (president and CEO, LDM International), Eckhard Pfieffer (president and CEO, Compaq), Dr Heinrich von Pierer (chairman and CEO, Siemens Corporation), Tadashi Sekizawa (president, Fujitsu), Stan Shih (chairman and CEO, Acer);

Masayoshi Son (president and CEO, Softbank), Dean Michael Spence (Stanford University GSB), Alvin Toffler (founder, Toffler & Associates), Gary Tooker (chairman, Motorola) and Lynton Wilson (chairman, president and CEO of Bell Canada Enterprise).

The statement said the inaugural meeting of the IAP would be held tomorrow at Stanford University, which is about an hour's drive from San Francisco, and it will be hosted by Spence and Miller of Stanford's GSB.

However, five of the members have said they are unable to attend the meeting. They are Gates, Gerstner, von Pierer, Sekizawa and Toffler.

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