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Lim: IAP a great group

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - Opposition leader Lim Kit Siang today described the establishment of the International Advisory Panel on the Multimedia Super Corridor as a great coup for Malaysia.

He welcomed the establishment of the IAP, comprising top names in the world information technology industry, which held its first meeting yesterday under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at Stanford University.

The DAP secretary-general said the primary responsibility of the IAP was to provide advice and counsel to Dr Mahathir and the Government on strategic issues related to the MSC such as infrastructure and the environment, policies and cyberlaws, marketing and incentives, and the development of domestic industries.

"The views and concerns expressed by the panelists should be given serious attention such as the shortage of skilled workers, how to market products from the MSC to neighbouring countries and how the proposed cyberlaws can be taken outside the MSC.

"Equally pertinent is advice about the difference between the Silicon Valley and the MSC, as the former is `totally uncontrolled'.

"For Malaysia to attract the entertainment industry to the MSC, the creative people must be given a lot of freedom."

Lim said while the MSC was being promoted internationally as a IT "hub" of the 21st century, no time should be lost to launch a nation-wide campaign to promote a Malaysian citizenry whose IT literacy and competency was comparable to the best in the world.

He said in keeping with the aim to make Malaysia a regional IT hub, the courts should aim to become one of the world's premier judicial systems on on-line usage.

"The question is whether the Malaysian judicial system is ready to become a pioneer in IT usage to be recognised internationally as a leader in electronic innovations.

"The Chief Judge of Malaya Tan Sri Anuar Zainal Abidin launched the Malaysian Bar Website during the launching of the Malaysian Bar's 50th anniversary celebrations two weeks ago.

"But the Website will not be functional until later in the year and the Malaysian courts themselves have no websites.

"We must recognise that the courts in other countries are much more advanced in electronic usage."

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