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IT-Conference

MAHATHIR TO OPEN MULTIMEDIA CONFERENCE

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 15 (Bernama) -- Four vital questions on information technology posed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to the international community early this year will take centre stage during an open plenary session on the first day of the Multimedia Asia Conference and Exhibition 1997 (MMA 97) tomorrow.

Dr Mahathir will discuss the questions -- ranging from taxation of collective ideas to the security of the Internet -- with some 500 participants comprising government officials and the world's leading IT professionals.

Energy, Telecommunications and Posts Minister Datuk Leo Moggie and Mimos Bhd president Tengku Datuk Dr Mohamed Azzman Shariffadeen are the other two panelists for the session.

The prime minister, who will open the four-day conference, is also expected to deliver a keynote address on "Moving Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) From Vision To Reality" at the opening ceremony.

Dr Mahathir, during a seminar in the Silicon Valley in January, had asked how value collectively created in several countries but sold in another can be taxed and how intellectual property rights of knowledge-based products and services can be defined and protected.

He also asked how responsibility for the accuracy and integrity of information on the Internet can be ensured and how society can be protected from new forms of fraud, counterfeiting, piracy and viral attacks on the systems that run companies or even countries.

The questions were raised by the prime minister as Malaysia is developing the MSC as an international information technology hub.

The premier MMA `97 will include dialogues and presentations on the MSC and exhibition of multimedia products by world-renowned companies and local IT players.

It was at the first MMA last year that Dr Mahathir officially launched the MSC and the phenomenal success of the inaugural event had led to the decision to make MMA an annual international framework for a dialogue and evaluation on the progress of the MSC.

More than 210 exhibitors from all over the world had confirmed their participation in MMA `97 and some of them are expected to showcase their smart solutions for the MSC flagship applications -- Electronic Government, Smart Schools, Multipurpose Card, Telemedicine, Research and Development Cluster, Worldwide Manufacturing Web and Borderless Marketing.

The MSC is an area 50km by 15km extending south from the Kuala Lumpur City Centre to the Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Sepang, designated for companies wanting to create, distribute and employ multimedia products and services. -- BERNAMA

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