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Malaysian help sought for IT headstart

RAVAGED by violent ethnic war Bosnia-Herzegovina is seeking to jump-start its economy and the country's reconstruction process by leap-frogging into the information age with Malaysia's help.

One of the country's leader Dr Haris Silajdzic said one of the ways was to have some of its citizens trained at the Multimedia Super Corridor project. He hoped Malaysia would accommodate their request and accept some of Bosnia Herzegovina's youth for training and attachment in the MSC.

Silajdzic, who is one of the co-chairman of the country's Council of Ministers, said:

"Bosnia-Herzegovina cannot be conventionally developed. It needs to take a large leap," he said at the reopening ceremony of a school here on Wednesday.

He said currently there were some 120 Bosnian children in Malaysia, most of whom were in primary schools. There was a need to tap the field of information technology with Malaysia's aid.

Silajdzic informed Education Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak who was on a two-day visit to the country, of their request.

Najib, before leaving the country, told reporters that he would forward Silajdzic's request to the Government and the Multimedia Development Corporation, the body responsible for the MSC project.

He said the Bosnian leader was not very pleased that some countries were promising old technology to help the country rebuild itself. The former Yugoslavian State wants to study how the project could be implemented in Bosnia Herzegovina.

"He had expressed his interest in the (MSC) project to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad when he was in Malaysia, but this time he is very specific in his request," Najib said.

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