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MDC FINALISES 12 FIRMS TO UNDERTAKE R&D IN MSC

KUALA LUMPUR, March 13 (Bernama) -- The Multimedia Development Corporation (MDC), marketer and developer of the government-initiated Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC), has finalised 12 companies to undertake research and development in the MSC.

MDC executive chairman Tan Sri Dr Othman Yeop Abdullah said today among them were NTT of Japan, Telekom Malaysia, IBM, Sun Microsystems, Microsoft, NCR and DHL Courier Services.

"I have been given to understand that they have made a firm stand to participate in R&D activities in the MSC," he told reporters after briefing about 100 chief executive officers on the MSC and global technology trends here.

MIMOS President and CEO Tengku Datuk Dr Mohd Azzman Shariffadeen also took part in the briefing on "A Look into The Future," organised by the international audit and consultant firm, Price Waterhouse.

The development of the R&D cluster, one of the flagship applications within the MSC, would enable participating companies to collaborate with other international R&D companies.

On the progress made in drafting the cyberlaws for MSC, Dr Othman said the three main aspects -- Digital Signature Act, Intellectual Property Act and Computer Crime Act -- had been completed and would be submitted to the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad soon.

"We have also appointed a legal firm to assist and advise us towards the creation of the draft Acts," he added.

He said MDC had prepared other proposals to be included in the MSC's entire development, including the tariff rate for companies wishing to bring in multimedia and information technology (IT) equipment.

The 15km by 50 km MSC would encompass the Kuala Lumpur City Centre, Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Sepang and new government administrative centre, Putrajaya.

Dr Othman also said MDC would start publishing details of the criteria for companies to set up their operations in the MSC in June.

One criteria was that MSC was open to producers of IT-related technologies and products who set up operations within the MSC's designated area and another was that they should be committed to transfer of multimedia technologies to other companies. -- BERNAMA

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