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MIRZAN: SMIS SHOULD TAP POTENTIAL IN KYUSHU, JAPAN

KUALA LUMPUR, March 12 (Bernama) -- Malaysian small- and medium scale industries (SMIs) involved in multimedia and other related information technology (IT) are urged to tap the many potentials that exist in the "Silicon Island" of Kyushu, Japan.

Asian Strategy and Leadership Institute (ASLI)'s president, Mirzan Mahathir said, "many automotives and other high tech companies have business ties and supply equipment and parts to this country, and we should try to tap potentials on that island."

About 340 information technology related producers operate in Kyushu with more than 30 percent contributing to Japan's IT industries.

Mirzan was speaking at a press conference to announce the one day "Fukuoka Dialogue" to be organised by Asli on March 28.

The dialogue, which will be co-organise by the Asia Business Centre (ABC) and the Nishinippon Newspaper Co Ltd, both of Fukuoka, Japan, would be held at the Fukuoka Symphony Hall, Fukuoka in conjunction with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's five-day official visit to Japan from March 25.

Mirzan said Fukuoka has served and prospered as the main point of industrial and commercial exchange between Japan and other Asian countries.

Dr Mahathir is expected to deliver a keynote address "The Digital Century: Opportunities for Mutual Collaboration Between Japan and Malaysia" at the dialogue.

The dialogue is intended to be a high level meeting among business communities of the two countries, particularly in the IT industry. Policy and decision makers, service providers, suppliers and corporate implementers in the Asian region are also expected to attend the dialogue, he added.

Mirzan said minister of international trade and industry, Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz, Pulau Pinang chief minister Datuk Seri Koh Tsu Koon, Kedah menteri besar Datuk Seri Sanusi Junid, health minister Datuk Chua Jui Meng and multimedia development corporation's (MDC) executive chairman, Tan Sri Dr Othman Yeop Abdullah will be among the speakers at the dialogue.

Some 1,800 participants from Japan and 80 from Malaysia are expected to attend the dialogue. About 30 Malaysian big companies have confirmed their attendance.

ABC's president, Kenji Takimoto said the centre would also organise a meeting with Dr Othman to discuss on how Kyushu's IT business community can contribute to Malaysia's Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC). -- BERNAMA

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