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MSC - A JEWEL IN THE CROWN, SAYS JACK VALENTI

SEPANG, Dec 13 (Bernama) -- The Multimedia Super Corridor, could be one of the jewels in the crown of Malaysia's trade asset in the next 25 years, said Jack Valenti, chairman cum chief executive officer of Motion Picture Association (MPA).

He also commended Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for his vision to have the corridor that has put Malaysia ahead of the other nations and probably including the United States.

The corridor would become a seabed which would spread the shape and form of the cyber space in the future, he said.

"You spend years in planning as such your are way ahead more than any other country in the world," said Valenti after his tour of the Multimedia Development Corporation Sdn Bhd (MDC).

During this tour he was briefed by MDC officials on the development of the corridor apart from engaging in some two-way discussions.

The Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) and its international counterpart, MPA, serve as the voice and advocate of the American motion picture, home video and television industry.

During the briefing, Valenti also brought up the issue of intellectual property piracy, like in movies, video compact discs, compact discs and computer software.

Valenti said he hoped the Malaysian government realised the importance of having a law abiding enviroment in order to ensure the success of the corridor.

He said: " I am leaving you with optimism that the Malaysian goverment would make sure piracy is measurably and visibly decreased."

However, Valenti pointed out that the intellectual property piracy level is not that alarming in Malaysia, judging from the fact that the United States entertainment industry only lost about US\$50 million (about RM185 million) in Malaysia compared with losses of US\$1.5 billion (about RM5.6 billion) sustained in the whole of Asia in one year.

At the same event, MDC's executive chairman Tan Sri Dr Othman Yeop Abdullah said the corporation would make a proposal to the government to set up a special force to combat intellectual property piracy.

He disclosed that the special force could be headed by the MDC itself and representatives from the Ministry of Domestic Trade and Consumers Affairs, police department and the attorney general. -- BERNAMA

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