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PM begins US trip to promote MSC

Calvin Goh in Los Angeles

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad arrives here today on a week-long visit to further promote Malaysia's Multimedia Super Corridor - a 15-by-60 kilometre zone extending south from Kuala Lumpur.

Malaysia has devoted this huge corridor, larger than Singapore, to creating a perfect environment for companies wanting to create, distribute and employ multi-media products and services.

The MSC, a brainchild of Dr Mahathir, links the KL International Airport in Sepang, Kuala Lumpur City Centre and Putrajaya, the new administrative capital.

Dr Mahathir, who will be staying in Beverly Hills while here for three days, is scheduled to have private meetings with chief executive officers of several US technology companies.

Today, he will have a dialogue with the Malaysian community here followed by breaking of fast.

Tomorrow, he is scheduled to address Beverly Hills entertainment and community leaders at the Beverly Hills Hotel after which he will be going to the University of California in Los Angeles to address the university community and potential investors.

On Wednesday, Dr Mahathir leaves for Stanford University in Palo Alto in Silicon Valley, about an hour's drive from San Francisco, where he will address investors in a speech at the university.

On Thursday, he will chair the inaugural meeting of the International Advisory Panel for the MSC and announce the names of its members.

Last month, Dr Mahathir had announced that Bill Gates, the founder and owner of Microsoft, the world's largest computer software manufacturing company, had agreed to be a member of the panel.

The IAP meeting will discuss topics such as cyberlaws and global issues and the challenges.

From the US, Dr Mahathir will visit Japan where he will address Japanese chief executive officers on the MSC in Tokyo.

Bernamea reports that Dr Mahathir left for the US yesterday afternoon. He was accompanied by Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali. Among those in the delegation were Chief Secretary to the Government Datuk Abdul Halim Ali and Finance Ministry Secretary-General Tan Sri Clifford Herbert.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and several Ministers were at the airport to send off the Prime Minister.

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