

07/01/1997

PM to announce members of panel for MSC

PETALING JAYA, Mon. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is expected to announce the members of the distinguished International Advisory Panel for the Multimedia Super Corridor when he leaves for the United States this month.

Multimedia Development Corporation chairman and chief executive Tan Sri Othman Yeop Abdullah said today 25 people, who are leading figures in the local and global multimedia industries, have been selected to sit on the panel.

"They are from all over the world," he told reporters after giving a briefing on the MSC to members of the Malaysian National Computer Confederation at PJ Hilton today.

Dr Mahathir is leading a high-level delegation to the United States on Jan 13 as part of a continuous effort to promote the MSC's key idea to technology companies.

The delegation is expected to stop over in Los Angeles to attend an industry meeting at the University of California and proceed to San Francisco where Dr Mahathir will chair the IAP meeting at the Stanford University.

The IAP was set up to help the Government to formulate guidelines for the MSC.

On the multi-media university, Othman said Renong would be providing RM120 million for the project. Telecommunications giant, NTT of Japan, will also be financing part of the project.

Othman said the first intake for the university would be in October.

For a start, the university would be housed at Tenaga Nasional Bhd's Engineering Technology Institute in Bangi.

"There are a few universities which are assisting us in fine-tuning the programmes and by seconding their teachers to the Multimedia University.

"The universities include the Waterloo University and Simon Frazer University in Canada. Negotiations are also under way with other institutions, including Stanford," he said.

In his briefing, Othman said three Bills to support companies undertaking multimedia commerce in Malaysia would be tabled in the March Parliament seating.

The proposed laws - The Digital Signatures Cyberlaw, the Multimedia Intellectual Property Cyberlaw and the Computer Crime Cyberlaw - have already been approved by the Cabinet.

Among others, the Digital Signatures Cyberlaw enables businesses and the community to use electronic signatures instead of their handwritten ones in legal and business transactions.

The Multimedia Intellectual Property Cyberlaw gives multimedia developers full intellectual property protection through the on-line registration of works, licensing and royalty collection.

The Computer Crime Cyberlaw provides law enforcers with a framework that defines illegal access, interception, and use of computers and information; and standards for service providers.

The MDC is also drafting provisions for the Multimedia Convergence Act, the Telemedicine Development Cyberlaw and the Electronic Government Cyberlaw.

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