

12 AUG 1997

UNTPDC-MSC

UN BODY SUGGESTS ELECTRONIC TRADE LINKS IN MSC

SERDANG, Aug 12 (Bernama) -- The United Nations Trade Point Development Centre (UNTPDC) today suggested that an electronic trade link called "The Secure Electronic Authentication Link" (SEAL) be included as part of the flagship applications of Malaysia's Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC).

UNTPDC Head Carlos Moreira said SEAL is the first level of certification and validation for Electronic Commerce in a country and it provides the security components to perform transactions at the MSC.

If it becomes one of the flagship applications, Seal would interconnect Malaysia's MSC to other similar projects in 173 countries through trade points, which is a pre-transactional centre for trade information, he told a news conference at Universiti Putra Malaysia here.

Moreira and his delegation is on a four-day working visit to Malaysia to explore the possibility of making Malaysia as one of the SEAL hub that connect the MSC to the Global Trade Point Network (GTPNet) in the United Nations.

He said his delegation would meet government and MSC officials to discuss the idea of introducing Electronic Commerce in Malaysia by placing SEAL under the flagship application of the country's MSC project.

Moreira said electronic commerce would be beneficial especially to small- and medium-scale industries (SMIs) as it would make trading more faster, simpler and cheaper.

Business transactions were done within the companies without much obstacle, he said.

Through electronic commerce, Malaysian businessmen could also do business with their overseas counterparts via electronic agents at trade points and could clear business transactions in less than one working day.

Moreira is confident that the Malaysian government would seriously consider the idea of having SEAL as one of the flagship applications in the MSC project having seen the extensive campaign and promotion on MSC by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Last month, Dr Mahathir launched the first four flagship applications for MSC, the Electronic Government, Smart School, Telemedicine and Smart Card. -- BERNAMA

AKT TS