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Inet-Magaziner

US SEEKING WORLD FEEDBACK ON ELECTRONIC COMMERCE

KUALA LUMPUR, June 25 (Bernama) -- The United States is seeking input from Malaysia and Singapore as part of international feedback on the American-proposed strategy on the implementation of electronic commerce (E-commerce) via the Internet.

Visiting senior US presidential adviser on public policy Ira Magaziner said today he had discussed the matter with the Malaysian government and presented the E-Commerce draft policy for review.

He said US president Bill Clinton is scheduled to announce the new strategy for E-Commerce at the White House on Tuesday.

The draft policy report has been circulated in the Internet since December last year to invite public comments.

"We will engage in discussion with other governments and private sectors throughout the world to try to develop common frameworks over the next couple of years that will allow electronic commerce to flourish," he said.

Magaziner, who headed the US Inter-Agency Task Force on E-Commerce, was addressing the Inet'97 plenary session on "The Future of Global Electronic Commerce" at the Putra World Trade Centre here.

"We think we can learn something from countries like Malaysia and Singapore who understand the potential of the Internet and support electronic commerce," he told reporters after the speech.

E-commerce was one of the seven flagship applications of Malaysia's Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) project mooted by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The MSC is a 750 sq km area designated for development into a multimedia and information technology hub located south of here.

"We are admirers of what Malaysia is accomplishing with the MSC taking a forward look to the future," he said.

Magaziner said a uniform commercial code was necessary since companies want to make sure that there was a predictable environment in implementing global E-commerce.

"We should try to seek global agreement from the beginning (of E-Commerce) because certain traditional regulations could be irrelevant to current technologies," he said.

He said the strategy was developed on the premise that expansion of global E-commerce could only be possible with less government intervention.

"Government intervention, if necessary, should be minimal and transparent such as providing a predictable legal environment and uniform rules on which to conduct their activities," he said.

Among others, the E-commerce strategy will look into the privacy and protection of children as consumers.

It will also seek for uniformity in current taxation of goods and services traded through the Internet and promote no new taxation for electronic commerce.

-- BERNAMA

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