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Advisory panel for MSC to have 13 more members

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THE second meeting of the International Advisory Panel (IAP) for the Multimedia Media Super Corridor, scheduled for February 12-13, will see the participation of 13 additional members.

Multimedia Development Corp Sdn Bhd (MDC) executive chairman Tan Sri Dr Othman Yeop Abdullah said the panel's membership has been expanded to 41 to include multimedia sectors such as animation and content development.

"Initially, we felt members should come from only the IT-multimedia industry. However, we realise that there are other personalities in related sectors who can contribute to the MSC," he told reporters at a briefing to announce the IAP meeting in Cyberjaya yesterday.

The new members of the panel are Alcatel Alsthom's chairman and chief executive officer, Mr Serge Tchuruk; former chairman and chief executive officer of Apple Computers, Mr Gilbert Amelio; chief executive officer of British Telecom Centre, Sir Peter Bonfield; president and chief executive of Ericsson, Dr Lars Ramqvist; president and chief executive officer of Cisco Systems Inc, Mr John Chambers; and DHL chairman, Mr Patrick Lupo.

The other newcomers are chairman of Kingdom Holding Co, Prince Al-Waleed Talal Al-Saud; founding partner of Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers, Mr John Doerr; president and chief executive officer of Nokia Group; Mr Jorma Ollila; Reuters chief executive officer, Mr Peter Job; president and chief executive officer of Motion Picture Association of America, Mr Jack Valenti; chairman of NEC, Dr Tadahiro Sekimoto; and vice-chancellor of the University of Cambridge, Professor Alec Broer.

For the second IAP meeting, 15 panel members have confirmed their participation. They include chairman and chief executive officer of Acer Inc, Dr Stan Shih; Alcatel's Tchuruk; Ericsson's Ramqvist; executive director of the Centre for Global Communications, International University of Japan, Professor Shumpei Kumo; and senior advisor to the Centre for Strategic and International Studies US, Ambassador Diana Lady Dougan.

"Between now and February 11, I believe a few more will confirm their attendance, while 19 others have said they are unable to come," Othman said.

Eight organisations will be sending a representative each as observers. These include Hewlett Packard, IBM, LG Academy, Nokia Corp, Oracle Corp, Siemens Corp, Sun Microsystems and Reuters.

The meeting, a closed-door affair, will be opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Three MSC-status companies - a Malaysian company, a local-foreign joint venture and a foreign operation - have been invited to give presentations.

"Participants will deliberate on issues such as the future of e-commerce, tax implications of e-commerce, the effects of the Internet on society and industry convergence.

"A session will also be provided for IAP members to review the MSC and determine if it is proceeding in the right direction in all aspects of its development like human resources, physical infrastructure, environment and research and development culture," Othman said.

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