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Mahathir-Award

ASIAN-OCEANIA IT AWARD FOR MAHATHIR

PETALING JAYA, Nov 26 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad tonight received the 1998 Asian-Oceanian Computing Industry Organisation (Asocio) information technology (IT) award for his contribution to the development of the IT industry in Malaysia.

The award was presented to the prime minister by Asocio president Dr F.C. Kohli at the Asocio-Pikom gala dinner here.

Pikom is the Association of the Computer Industry Malaysia.

The award is given to an outstanding person of the Asocio host country, having contributed most significantly to the IT industry in the host country and the standing of the IT industries of the Asocio region.

In the citation, Dr Mahathir has been described as someone who has set world class example of how one statesman with a bold vision can promote IT technology.

"You have exercised your fullest energies to promote IT as the new growth industry for Malaysia," the citation says.

The citation says the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) project will not only be a conducive, high technology manufacturing belt but also a test plate for the IT industry of the world to congregate and innovate.

In a statement, Pikom chairman Shaifubahrim Saleh said Dr Mahathir has set a world class example of how one statesman with a bold vision can promote IT.

"For his contribution to the development of the local IT industry through initiatives such as the Multimedia Super Corridor and the National IT Agenda, it is only appropriate that Asocio salutes him for his admirable efforts," he said.

Earlier, Asocio held its annual general assembly and symposium which was opened by International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz.

Asocio was established in 1984. Its 10-member countries are Australia, Indonesia, Thailand, Taiwan, South Korea, New Zealand, Japan, India, Malaysia and Singapore.

Asocio has also five associate members namely Bangladesh, Nepal, Mongolia, the Philippines and Sri Lanka and five guest members comprising the United Kingdom, United States, Canada, Spain and France.

Also present was Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Md Ali.

--BERNAMA

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