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Panel-Law

DEVELOP PRINCIPLES OF FAIRNESS, TRANSPARENCY, PANEL TOLD

CYBERJAYA, Feb 13 (Bernama) -- The International Advisory Panel (IAP) for the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) needs to develop a framework that is committed to the principles of fairness, transparency, openness and flexibility rather than being too detailed in creating new laws.

This was to ensure the success of the MSC, Senior Adviser to the US-based Centre for Strategic & International Studies Ambassador Diana Lady Dougan said today.

"I told them not to be too detailed in creating new laws because technology often changes. What is more important is to develop a framework that is committed to principles of fairness, transparency, openness and flexibility," she said.

Dougan said the two-day IAP meeting, which ended today, discussed at length the need to have policy and law that attracted investment, innovation and knowledged workers.

"Many of us also believe that knowledged workers need not be educated but inspired," she told Bernama in an interview today.

Yesterday, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said that the government would give exception for the "importation" of knowledged foreign workers for the benefit of the MSC.

MSC is a 15 x 50 km garden corridor with special cyberlaws, policies and practices and a next generation multimedia infrastructure. So far, 103 companies, mainly from Europe, the US and Japan, have committed themselves to setting up operations in the MSC.

On the meeting, which was attended by 25 out of the 44 appointed representatives from various multinationals and agencies, Dougan said the meeting was impressive as it did not solely focus on the success of companies already in the MSC "but it created a willingness among them" to discuss problems, the impediments and the challenges that they faced.

"Dr Mahathir himself took notes and asked lots of questions. We do not necessarily agree with him on some policies and issues, but we could feel there's a fair deal of vision and pragmatism and understanding in him that the government could not do it all alone without the private sectors' participation.

"Obviously, Dr Mahathir wants to use the MSC as a test pad for the future and not for technology purposes only," she added. -- BERNAMA

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