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Dr M gets award for promoting IT and its related industries

PETALING JAYA, Thurs. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was tonight conferred the Asian-Oceanian Computing Industry Organisation IT Award 1998 for his contribution to the development of information technology and IT-related industries.

The award was presented to him by Asocio president Dr F.C. Kohli at the Asocio-Pikom or Association of the Computer Industry Malaysia Gala Banquet at Sunway Lagoon Resort Hotel.

Dr Mahathir said he was accepting the award not only for himself, but also on behalf of those who had made the Multimedia Super Corridor a reality, describing the MSC as "one of the most unique plans in the Information Age the world has ever seen".

"Although every country, in fact every town has got its own programme in this Information Age, they have nothing like MSC."

With many now speaking of having one like MSC, Dr Mahathir said he was quite sure all would succeed "because there is no way we can do something that is unique forever. We have to share our knowledge with others."

On the Internet, Dr Mahathir said it was unfortunate there were people who had abused such a powerful medium which could teach people many things and something that has brought the world closer.

He added the abuses were due to distortions in their way of thinking.

"I do hope that such people are in the minority and in this age of information, we will learn to handle information in a way that will contribute towards the wellbeing of all people in this world and towards a better civilisation."

Earlier, the citation was read out by Mimos Bhd president and chief executive officer Tengku Datuk Dr Mohd Azzman Shariffadeen, who described his meetings with Dr Mahathir beginning with the first encounter in August 1994.

Tengku Azzman had briefed Dr Mahathir for 20 minutes on his proposal to start a macroeconomics institute, after which the Prime Minister asked him: "How much do you want?" And after being told the requirement was RM5 million in the first year, he asked: "When can you start?"

Tengku Azzman, who traced how the MSC was subsequently conceptualised, also recounted how Dr Mahathir had once made a surprise visit to the institute which was later known as Mimos. And of how the Prime Minister later requested to be briefed by experts on IT.

"In 10 months, he knew all that was needed to be known."

Asocio had singled out Dr Mahathir's efforts in promoting IT and the MSC for praise.

Asocio comprises all the respective industry associations, such as Pikom, in the 15-member countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali and Pikom chairman Shaifubahrim Saleh were also present.

The Pikom-Computimes IT Awards in six categories were also presented tonight.

Singer (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd was named IT Organisation of the Year, Computer Protocol (M) Sdn Bhd was presented with the IT Product of the Year (Hardware) and FCS Computer Systems Sdn Bhd and Multicentric Technology Sdn Bhd received the IT Product of the Year (Software:application).

NetCard Corporation Bhd won the IT Product of the Year

(Software:Internet based application) while BRG Interactive Digital Media Sdn Bhd and NetCard Corporation were named Internet Website of the Year. Articulate Multimedia Sdn Bhd won the Multimedia CD-Title of the Year.

The Pikom-Computimes IT Award was initiated by Pikom and Computimes, the twice-weekly IT section of the New Straits Times.

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