

12 FEB 1998

Mahathir-Panel

DR MAHATHIR CHAIRS SECOND IAP MEETING IN CYBERJAYA

CYBERJAYA, Feb 12 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today kicked-off a meeting of several of the world's top information technology (IT) chiefs to discuss issues pertaining to the development of the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) and the IT/multimedia industry.

These top IT industry players are part of the MSC's 44-member International Advisory Panel (IAP) which will meet here for the next two days as a follow-up to the first IAP meeting held at the Stanford University in California on Jan 16 last year.

The two-day high-powered meeting is being held behind closed-doors at Cyberjaya's posh resort-cum-office complex, which houses the Multimedia Development Corporation Sdn Bhd's (MDC) headquarters and the two-storey 48-room Cyberview Lodge, here, some 40 km south of Kuala Lumpur.

The 13 IAP members who are attending the meeting include Dr Stan Shih, chairman and CEO of Acer Incorporated; Ericsson's president and CEO Dr Lars Ramqvist; Senior Advisor and member of the Centre for Strategic and International Studies in Washington Ambassador Diana Lady Dougan; Lester M. Alberthal Jr, chairman and CEO of EDS Corporation; Dr Kenichi Ohmae of Ohmae & Associates, Gary Tooker of Motorola Inc.; Dr Tadahiro Sekimoto, chairman of NEC; and Professor William Miller of the Stanford University.

The participants, who will be staying at the complex, would also be taken on a helicopter tour for a bird's eyeview of the MSC.

According to MDC executive chairman Tan Sri Dr Othman Yeop Abdullah, he would give an update on the MSC to the IAP members.

The members would also be briefed by four MSC-status companies on their operations. They are Datek Sdn Bhd, VMS Technology Sdn Bhd, Worldstocks Sdn Bhd and Asia Pacific Information Services Sdn Bhd.

Issues to be deliberated during the meeting include global market trends in IT and cross-border issues such as the future of electronic commerce.

The IAP, comprising multimedia industry leaders and gurus, was formed to advise the government on the MSC, a 750 sq km area south of here designated as a hub for the development of multimedia products and services.

It is located between the Kuala Lumpur City Centre and the new Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Sepang.

To-date a total of 103 companies have been granted MSC status, with 80 already operating and 23, setting up their operations.

Dr Mahathir is scheduled to hold a news conference at 6pm today.

-- BERNAMA

TM