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Panel

DR MAHATHIR TO CHAIR SECOND IAP MEETING IN CYBERJAYA

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 11 (Bernama) -- The International Advisory Panel (IAP) swings into action for the second time tomorrow amid the strengthening of the ringgit and the local bourse to map out strategies for further development of the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC).

The two-day marathon meeting will be chaired by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad 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.

The RM65-million complex, built on 11.2 hectares of former estate land which is part of the 2,855-ha earmarked for the development of the Cyberjaya intelligent city, has a high-speed telecommunication infrastructure for video conferencing.

The meeting of the 44-member IAP comes just over a year after the inaugural meeting held at the Stanford University in California on Jan 16.

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.

According to MDC director for client services Dr Muhammad Ghazie Ismail, tomorrow's meeting would firstly update the panel members on the development of the MSC, a brainchild of Dr Mahathir.

As of yesterday, 15 IAP members have confirmed attendance.

They include Dr Stan Shih, chairman and CEO of Acer Incorporated; Senior Advisor and member of the Centre for Strategic and International Studies in Washington Ambassador Diana Lady Dougan; Lester Alberthal, 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.

Masanabu Suzuki, the executive vice president of NTT of Japan would represent another panel member, NTT president Jun-Ichiro Miyazu at tomorrow's meeting.

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.

Muhammad Ghazie said four companies have been shortlisted to brief panel members on their experiences operating as MSC companies and how they have benefited from the MSC.

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

He said the panelists would also discuss global issues, including the possibility of establishing a kind of an International CyberCourt of Justice.

Also high on the agenda are issues of enforcement of the Digital Signature Act, which Parliament passed last year, and the proposed Multimedia Convergence Act set for tabling in Parliament this year.

The meeting would also discuss cross-border issues like electronic commerce, security encryption and common platform in smart card application.

Content development which include curriculum for universities and post-production film industry and the societal effects of the Internet

relating to censorship, would also be discussed.

Muhammad Ghazie expected the meeting to come up with some concrete results and recommendations to form the basis of MSC's development.

MDC executive chairman Tan Sri Dr Othman Yeop Abdullah had said that the IAP meeting would review MSC's direction, especially whether its targets are achievable. -- BERNAMA

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