

29 SEP 1998

MAHATHIR LAUNCHES VIRTUAL COMMONWEALTH

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 29 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad tonight launched the Virtual Commonwealth (VC) in conjunction with the Multimedia Asia '98 and subsequently joined eight other panelists in a 90-minute VC dialogue session.

The session, themed "Governance in an Internetworked World: Towards a Global Civilised Society" cuts across time zones and was conducted in an open and transparent forum with worldwide access, live via the internet and television broadcast channels through RTM.

Former United Nations General Assembly president Tan Sri Razali Ismail acted as moderator for the session.

Dr Mahathir represented Asia and developing nations in the dialogue.

Other session panelists are Dr Chandra Muzaffar (president, International Movement for a Just World) representing social, cultural and community interests, Tengku Datuk Dr Mohamed Azzman Shariffadeen (secretary, National Information Technology Council Malaysia) representing technology interests, Tan Sri Dr Othman Yeop Abdullah (executive chairman, Multimedia Development Corporation) representing the private sector, Mark Malloch Brown (vice president for External and United Nations Affairs, World Bank Group) representing global development interest.

Martin Bangemann (Commissioner for Industrial Affairs, Information Technology and Telecommunications, European Commission) representing Europe, Rubens Ricupero (secretary-general, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) representing South America and global trade interests, Dr Joseph S. Nye (dean, John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University) representing academia and North America and Brian Urquhart (scholar-in-residence, Ford Foundation International Affairs Programme) representing the Commission on Global Governance.

-- BERNAMA

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