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MOTOROLA NEVER IN DOUBT ABOUT INVESTING IN MSC, SAYS ITS CHAIRMAN

CYBERJAYA, Feb 12 (Bernama) -- Motorola, a leading producer of advanced electronic and wireless communications systems, has never been in doubt about its investment in Malaysia and the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC), said its chairman Gary L. Tooker.

"In fact, we made the decision to invest in the MSC right in the middle of the economic crisis," he told newsmen during a lunch break of the MSC's Second International Advisory Panel (IAP) meeting attended by 13 members here today.

Tooker, who sits on the 44-member panel, said: "I know all IAP members are continuing to be optimistic of the long-term prospect of Malaysia and Asia. These (the financial turbulence) are things that will pass."

"All of us are optimistic about the work ethic, dedication and creativity of Malaysians," he added.

Commending Malaysian leaders' proactive role in steering the country out of the crisis, he said Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's recent visit to Japan seems to have bore fruit.

"Meanwhile, your Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, is taking a leadership role in the Asean community and discussing the crisis issue with European nations as well as the United States," Tooker added.

On Motorola's investment in the MSC, Tooker said the company is optimistic of securing some major contracts. However, he declined to elaborate.

"We have not finalised (the investment figure) but whatever it will be will be a first step and anything in the first step is in the order of US\$10 million to US\$15 million," he said.

Tooker described Motorola's investment in the MSC as an extension of its existing investment in Seremban, Kuala Lumpur and Penang.

More importantly, Motorola's investment in the MSC is synergistic with the company's activities in the Smart Card programme and Smart School initiative, two of the seven flagship applications of the MSC, he said.

"We think this (MSC) is important not only for Malaysia but for the rest of the world because it can serve as a model on how we can move forward in information technology around the world," he explained. --

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