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Move to register Y2K compliant companies

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KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - Companies which have tackled the Year 2000 problem will be able to register with the Energy, Telecommunications and Posts Ministry to be certified as Y2K-compliant, its Minister Datuk Leo Moggie said today.

Moggie said this list would enable companies to reassure the public that they were ready for Y2K, while consumers would be guaranteed Y2K-compliant products and services.

"When the list is ready, we will make the list as accessible to the public as we can, including by publishing it on our web-site.

"However, it does not mean that companies which do not register with us are not Y2K-compliant," he told a Press conference on the Infotech Malaysia/ITX '98 conference and exhibition at the Mimos Bhd headquarters in Bukit Jalil.

The Y2K problem refers to the inability of some computer chips to recognise the year 2000 and beyond in their time-sensitive functions, possibly resulting in system errors or shutdowns.

The ministry supervises the implementation of Y2K compliance in the private sector while implementation in the Government sector is supervised by a working group led by the Malaysian Administrative Modernisation and Management Planning Unit.

Mampu, Moggie said, had identified and was working with 21 departments and agencies expected to be critically affected by the Y2K problem.

On the Infotech Malaysia/ITX '98 event, Moggie said the main thrusts would be the implementation and impact of the National IT Agenda and the development of local IT innovations, products and brands.

He later received, on behalf of the National IT Council, a RM600,000 mock cheque from Telekom Malaysia Bhd chairman Datuk Ali Hassan symbolising its contribution to the event in the form of video conferencing facilities and services.

More than 1,000 participants are expected at the conference, which is also adopting a "Smart Partnership"-based roundtable format, with each table containing participants from different backgrounds.

The ITX '98 exhibition is geared towards showcasing the experiences of IT implementors in transforming ideas into innovative solutions and applications containing local content.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is also the chairman of the National IT Council, is expected to deliver the keynote address for the conference and tour the exhibition on April 21.

The four-day event, to be held at the Putra World Trade Centre, is organised by NITC and the Association of the Computer Industry Malaysia (Pikom), with the New Straits Times, Berita Harian, Computimes, Berita Komputer and Sin Chew Jit Poh as the official media.

The event is co-organised by Mimos, Mampu, Telekom Malaysia, the Multimedia Development Corporation and Uni-Technologies Sdn Bhd, the commercial outfit of Universiti Teknologi Malaysia.

Those interested can call 03-9660255 or 03-2920297 or e-mail lkmun@pop18.jaring.my or molly@pikom.org.my for information.

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