

23/02/1998

MSC's Bill of Guarantees impresses IT expert

Hamisah Hamid

AN INFORMATION technology expert yesterday praised the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) project, saying it has the right investment in infrastructure and regulations.

Mr Robert M. Metcalfe, vice president of technology for the International Data Group, said the MSC is an "extremely ambitious project" and is particularly impressed with the Bill of Guarantee.

He said this in response to a question from the floor after presenting a talk on "Internet Futures", organised by Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Alumni Association of Malaysia, in Kuala Lumpur last night.

Present at the dinner talk were Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali and Penang Yang di-Pertua Negeri Tun Dr Hamdan Sheikh Tahir.

Also present was Multimedia Development Corp (MDC) executive chairman Tan Sri Dr Othman Yeop Abdullah, who is the MIT Alumni Association of Malaysia president.

Metcalfe, who is the president of MIT Alumni of the USA and the inventor of Ethernet, is also impressed with the Seven Flagship Applications for the MSC.

He, however, said there is insufficient encouragement of competition in the project and added, "one company figures too much".

He said from his experience in the Silicon Valley for 22 years, he has found a basic principle which works everywhere - "the freedom of choice between competing alternatives".

For the infrastructure within the MSC to evolve well, he said, service providers must compete with each other.

Metcalfe, who is also a columnist with Info World magazine, is a recipient of the 1996 Medal of Honour of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers.

(END)