

22 FEB 1998

Multimedia

MSC BRILLIANT IDEA, SAYS ETHERNET INVENTOR

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 22 (Bernama) -- The Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) project is extremely an ambitious and brilliant idea for Malaysia, a world renowned information technology personality said tonight.

President of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Alumni Association of the United States, Dr Robert Metcalfe said he was impressed with the MSC project, the brainchild of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"Investment in information infrastructure around the world today is the thing we should be doing now," he said during a question-and-answer session after delivering a dinner lecture on "Internet Futures-The Destiny of the World Wide Web" here.

Dr Mahathir was guest-of-honour of the function organised by the MIT Alumni Association of Malaysia.

Also present were Pulau Pinang Yang Dipertua Negeri Tun Hamdan Sheikh Tahir and president of the MIT Alumni Association of Malaysia, Tan Sri Dr Othman Yeop Abdullah, who is also executive chairman of the Multimedia Development Corporation (MDC) which oversees the MSC project.

Asked about the pros and cons of the MSC project for Malaysia, Metcalfe said he was impressed with the 10-point Bill of Guarantees, one of which guarantees no censorship of the Internet.

The MSC is a 750-sq km zone south of here designated as a hub for the development of multimedia products and services.

However, Metcalfe said, the MSC project has insufficiently encouraged competition in the information infrastructure.

Metcalfe said it should be realised that the information infrastructure was not created outright at one go and that it needed upgrading from time to time.

Asked on censorship of the Internet, he said censorship was not the answer to eliminating its negative impact.

The people should not censor the Internet but instead invest on how "best to control the content that an individual should see rather than censoring what others want to see," he said.

About 250 association members attended the function. -- BERNAMA

HS rn