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Penang to be first of 12 cyber cities of excellence

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PENANG, Mon. - Penang is set to be the first of 12 cyber cities or islands of excellence to complement the Multimedia Super Corridor, Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon said today.

He said it was only natural that Penang, which had always been ahead of other States in the electronics sector, could expect to be at the forefront of this development.

Koh said over the next few years, there would be many activities towards propelling Penang into becoming the first "cyber city" after the first phase of the MSC was completed.

Speaking at the launching of MSC Nationwide Conference 1998 - the first in a series to be held around the country - Koh said the MSC as visualised by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was not confined to its physical structures between the Kuala Lumpur City Centre and Kuala Lumpur International Airport.

"The grand plan is to make the whole country an MSC in a borderless world," he said.

The conference held at Hotel Equatorial was attended by about 60 participants, comprising representatives of small and medium-size enterprises and large corporations based in the northern region.

Also present were State Executive Councillors Datuk Dr Sak Cheng Lum and Koay Kar Huah, and Multimedia Development Corporation executive chairman Tan Sri Dr Othman Yeop Abdullah.

"Even now, there are many areas in which Penang companies can contribute to the MSC, and benefit from it," Koh said.

"We are already a hub for computers and electronic peripherals, and the area between Penang and Kulim has become an established "computer silicon corridor" in the region.

"As the hardware hub, in contrast to the MSC as the software centre, I am sure there are many areas where the CSC and the MSC can work to explore and exploit the potential of such synergy."

Koh said Penang as the centre for hardware manufacturing can benefit from the design activities in the MSC.

Firms, especially SMIs could benefit from the Worldwide Manufacturing Web as well, he said.

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