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PM to have dialogue with participants of IT conference

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will have a dialogue with participants of a conference on Accelerating the Establishment of CAD & IC (Microchip) Design Industry in Malaysia at the Putra World Trade Centre this Friday.

The two-day conference which begins on Thursday, is jointly organised by the Malaysian-Government Group for High-Technology (Might), the Prime Minister's Department, the Malaysian Technology Development Corporation (MTDC) and the Multimedia Development Corporation. It will be managed by Amica Technologies (M) Sdn Bhd.

The conference aims to gather all the main stakeholders towards establishing a win-win situation through Smart partnerships among technopreneurs, academics and financiers from the United States, Organisation of Islamic Conference member countries and Malaysia.

Among them are Education Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, Science Adviser to the Prime Minister's Department Tan Sri Dr Omar Abdul Rahman, Pakistani Ambassador Musa Javed Chohan, Mimos Bhd president Datuk Dr Tengku Mohd Azzman Shariffadeen, MTDC CEO Anuar Md Nor, Lucent Technologies' Bell Labs senior scientist Dr Fatehy M. El-Turky and Aptix Corporation CEO and president Dr Amr Mohsen.

The key discussion areas are Strategic Approaches towards establishing computer-aided design (CAD) and integrated circuit (IC) industry for Malaysia; International Experience; Collaboration between Educational Institutions, Industry and the Government to establish industries, and Smart partnership between OIC countries, Malaysia and the United States.

Amica Technologies (M) Sdn Bhd president and CEO Mohammad Minhaj Khokhar said the creation of the microchip design industry in Malaysia would enhance the technology transfer and competency, industrial competitiveness and boost future growth.

"The industry will strengthen the value-chain of Malaysia's manufacturing cluster and is aligned to the vision and objectives of the Second Industrial Master Plan.

"It is anticipated that the acceleration of the microchip design industry will spearhead the nurturing and growth of own brand of manufacturing practices in Malaysia," he said in an interview at Balai Berita. The New Straits Times is the official newspaper for the conference.

Although Malaysia is the fourth largest semi-conductor exporter in the world, Mohammad Minhaj said the country's real export value "is marginal" due to its limited role as an assembler.

"By becoming a manufacturer, we will be able to increase export, reduce trade deficit and get the electric and electronic industries which are prime movers of Malaysia's economy, revived and revitalised.

"By making Malaysia the centre of microchip design, the country can expect to increase its earnings by RM24 billion a year within five years or RM60 billion a year over the next 10 years.

"The total job creation from the downstream industries is over 50,000 within five years and 120,000 within 10 years," he added.

For more information on the conference, call Mohammad Minhaj/Yasmine at 03-9592400 or Sheriffah Noor Khamseah Al-Idid of Might at 03-2945821.

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