

18/08/1998

Practise self-regulation, ISPs told

INTERNET service providers and telecommunication companies must exercise self-regulatory measures to ensure there is no abuse of these services when companies or individuals transmit electronic information.

"Although there is no specific way to prevent abuse of the system like the recent rumour mongering through the Internet, we feel that those involved in the industry and its clients, should practise self-regulation," said Telecommunications Department director-general Datuk Hod Parman yesterday.

He also said the ISPs and telephony firms must set a benchmark for quality infrastructure and services within the industry to prepare for the implementation of the equal access concept which starts on Jan 1, 1999.

Hod added that the five telecommunications firms had agreed to contribute towards a public awareness programme on the benefits of equal access.

He said a task force was preparing various modes of information dissemination programmes to create this awareness and the campaign was expected to take off in October.

Hod also urged the five firms to publicise and educate, as soon as possible, both corporate and home users on the benefits of equal access.

The equal access players involved are Telekom Malaysia Bhd, Bina-Sat Com Sdn Bhd, Time Telecommunications Sdn Bhd, Mutiara Telecommunications Sdn Bhd and Celcom Sdn Bhd.

Hod said the information could be provided via the Internet, media and exhibitions.

He said the five ISPs and telephony firms should discuss among themselves a way to ensure the present infrastructure and services offered were compatible and of a high quality.

Hod spoke at a Press conference in Kuala Lumpur to announce Malaysia's premier international telecommunications event - Asean Telecom '98 - to be held from Nov 3 to 6 at the Malaysia International Exhibition and Showroom.

Meanwhile, Tan Sri Dr Ahmad Mustaffa Babjee, executive chairman of AMB Exhibitions Sdn Bhd, the organiser of Asean Telecom '98, said 220 exhibitors from 18 countries were expected to take part.

Some 10,000 trade visitors are expected to visit the exhibition to be opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

About 20 per cent of the exhibitors have confirmed their participation so far.

Among those who have agreed to participate are three giant German companies - Siemens, Bosch Telecom and Krone.

Others are Telekom Malaysia, Nokia, NEC, Cisco System, Iridium, Sagem and Marconi.

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