

12 FEB 1998

Panel-Comments

STRONG CONFIDENCE WITH MSC

CYBERJAYA, Feb 12 (Bernama) -- Several of the world's top information technology experts and company chiefs have expressed strong confidence with the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC), saying the project will be a great success.

They expressed their commitment to the project at a joint news conference with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad after the first day of the Second International Advisory Panel (IAP) meeting of the MSC here today.

In fact, they even pledged for new and further investments in MSC.

Some such as Motorola's Board of Director Chairman Gary L. Tooker said that his company was committed to expand business in MSC especially in Smartcard and software development.

"I am pleased with the concrete progress (in MSC) that Dr Mahathir and his entire team have made...In a very short period of time we see the vision starts to take place," he said.

Expressing similar commitment was Siemens AG Executive vice president Axel Haas who said that the company decided to go for additional investment because it was attracted and impressed with the project.

"I am very optimistic that we are investing in right place," he said.

Earlier Haas announced that the German conglomerate was planning to invest some US\$50 million over the next 10 years in MSC.

France-based Alcatel Alsthom's Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Serge Tchuruk said that despite the economic problems faced by Malaysia, he has faith in Malaysia's future.

"The MSC is beyond a concept. We see the project and business plans and was very impressed. I don't know of any country in the world that has such a deep knowledge about information technology," he said.

Silicon Graphics Chairman Bob Bishop said the MSC would be a catalyst to pull forward Malaysia and other regional countries from the present economic turmoil.

"Despite the money crisis, the MSC will be a catalyst to pull forward Malaysia and the entire region forward.

"There is major progress from the last meeting. Facilities more visible. Planning are more concrete," he said.

Professor William Miller of Stanford University, California said the MSC had picked the best companies from around the world to the country.

"Learning from this other centres, generating and collecting the innovations of some other areas...we are beginning to see here an emergence of entrepreneurship, this is good news for Malaysia," he said.

Bloomberg's regional head for South East Asia G. Jagathisan said the recently amended Bernama Act which withdrawn the exclusive right by the Malaysian National News Agency (Bernama) to disseminate foreign news, was one of the MSC initiative lauded by Bloomberg.

He said with the withdrawal, clients would now save up to RM12,000 or 18 per cent from the cost of Bloomberg terminals.

The reduction would be effective end of March, he said.

Ambassador Diana Lady Dougan, Senior Advisor for the Centre for Strategic and International Studies, Washington, said the IAP applauded the vision and the willingness of Malaysia to be the test-bed in IT technology.

A total of 25 IT experts who are members and observers of IAP attended today's meeting. -- BERNAMA

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