

10 FEB 1998

THIRTEEN IAP MEMBERS CONFIRMED ATTENDING 2ND MEETING IN CYBERJAYA

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb (Bernama) -- Thirteen members of the Multimedia Super Corridor's (MSC) International Advisory Panel (IAP), chaired by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, have confirmed their attendance to the panel's second meeting in Cyberjaya, near here on Feb 12 and 13.

They are Acer Incorporated chairman and chief executive officer (CEO) Dr Stan Shih, Alcatel Alsthom chairman and CEO Serge Tchuruk, senior advisor for Centre for Strategic and International Studies in Washington Ambassador Diana Lady Dougan, EDS Corporation chairman and CEO Lester M Alberthal Jr., Ericsson president and CEO Dr Lars Ramqvist and Lucent Technologies chief operating officer Ben Verwaayan.

The others are Madge Networks chairman and CEO Robert Madge, Motorola Inc. chairman Gary Tooker, NEC chairman Dr Tadahiro Sekimoto, Ohmae and Associates managing director Dr Kenichi Ohmae, Silicon Graphics chairman Bob Bishop, Stanford University's profesor of public and private management Prof. William Miller and Nets Inc. former CEO and now a private investor in the multimedia technology Jim Manzi.

According the latest list of IAP members' confirmation status as of today issued by Multimedia Development Corporation (MDC), 31 other panel members will not be attending the meeting, with 12 of them to be representing by observers.

They include Dr John Cage who will come on behalf of Dr Scott McNealy from Sun Microsystems, Masanabu Suzuki on behalf of Jun-Ichiro Miyazu of NTT, Dr Mikko Kosonen on behalf of Jorma Ollila from Nokia Corp, George Samenuk on behalf of Louis Gerstner Jr. from IBM and Derek Williams on behalf Larry Ellison from Oracle.

Microsoft CEO Bill Gates and Sony Corporation president Nobuyuki Idei will not be at the meeting of the IAP, which comprises multimedia industry leaders and gurus, who will advise the government on the MSC's development.

The panel inaugural meeting took place at Stanford in the United States early last year after the launch of the MSC.

Their discussions and recommendations in the high-powered meeting will be used to help map out strategies for further development of the MSC, a top priority project for Malaysia's advancement in the world of information technology (IT).

The first item on the agenda will be an update for panel members on the development of the MSC since they last met.

They will also be taken on a helicopter tour to get a bird's eyeview of the MSC, a designated 15 by 50 km multimedia development hub located between the Kuala Lumpur City Centre (KLCC) and the new Kuala Lumpur International Airport at Sepang.

Four companies have been shortlisted to brief panel members on their experiences operating as MSC companies and how they have benefitted from the MSC.

To date a total of 103 companies have been granted with the MSC status, with 80 of them already operating and 23 in the process of setting up their operations.

Also high on the agenda are issues of the enforcement of the Digital Signature Act, which was passed by Parliament last year, and the proposed Multimedia Convergence Act, which could possibly be table in Parliament this year.

The meeting will also discuss cross-borders issues like electronic

commerce, security encryption, the issues of common platform in smart card application, content development which include curriculum for universities and post-production film industry, and the societal effects of the Internet which include the issues of censorship. -- BERNAMA

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