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CHINA-SOFTWARE

CHINA KEEN TO SHARE EDUCATION SOFTWARE TECHNOLOGY WITH M'SIA

CYBERJAYA, July 10 (Bernama) -- The development of multimedia education software can potentially be among the first areas of cooperation in the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC), between Malaysia and Peking University, an official of the university, said today.

Professor Wang Xuan, director at Peking University, suggested that the university and the Malaysia Multimedia University (MMU) could embark on a technology-sharing project to localise the former's technology in software development.

"This collaboration can be a platform later for local companies and teachers with primary and secondary schools to develop multimedia education software or education titles in Malay as well as in the English language, based on our (Peking University's) own multilingual development tool," he said.

Prof Xuan, a MSC International Advisory Panel (IAP) member, said this to reporters after a meeting with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on the last day of the three-day third MSC IAP meeting here.

This education software had only been proven commercially viable after a seven-year period of research and development work, he said.

Now, it has been well-received in major markets like the United States, Canada, Japan and Singapore, as well as in China, he added.

"If we (Peking University and MMU) want to develop it (software) together, it can be developed through our own company established here called PUC Founder (MSC) Sdn Bhd," he said.

PUC Founder is an MSC company which acquired the status in 1997. It is a subsidiary of Founder (Hong Kong) LTD, an international leading software content developer, which in turn is a subsidiary of Peking University.

PUC Founder, involved in the distribution of software products in Malaysia, is currently temporarily based in the Technology Park near here.

PUC Founder managing director Teh Hon Seng said there are already plans to set up its own research centre, most likely in the Technology Park, by the end of this year to facilitate business expansion into production and R&D here.

"We are at the advanced stage of completing the study plans, and if it is okay and if economically viable, we should start identifying a piece of land (in Technology Park) to start the construction (of the research centre building) by September," he said.

When asked on the proposed investment for the centre, he said that while it was premature to decide the amount at this point of time, it has spent between RM2-RM3 million for day-to-day operations.

Prof Xuan said that he would after his return home brief Chinese leaders on the experiences gained here during the IAP meeting.

He said there were a lot of things that China could learn from Malaysia in the development of information technology.

"As both Malaysia and China are developing countries, China is keen to learn how Malaysia is developing its own IT techniques as well as ways it protects its intellectual property," he said. -- BERNAMA

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