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Forging links with MNCs, web-shapers

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THE Multimedia University being at the heart of the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) is expected to leverage its position by forging meaningful linkages with leading multinationals and web-shapers with cutting-edge technologies, says Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"I am glad to note that the Multimedia University is already involved in collaborative efforts with more than 60 companies with cutting-edge technologies, including NTT, Alcatel and Lucent Technologies.

"This represents a good start in networking within the MSC and I hope that this marks the beginning of a long and mutually beneficial relationship between the parties involved," said Dr Mahathir at the official opening of the Multimedia University at Cyberjaya, Selangor yesterday.

Dr Mahathir added that the university opens up a spectrum of possible collaborative initiatives where faculty members will be able to partner with high-calibre peers or share resources in the form of joint subscription to on-line journals.

He said the Multimedia University is no ordinary university since it will become the cultural heart and intellectual nerve centre of the learning society to be created within the Cyberjaya community.

"Its opening signifies the readiness and capability of the MSC to generate a critical mass of quality knowledge workers for MSC-status companies. It is designed to spawn creative ideas and technopreneurs - very much like the role that Stanford University plays in the success of the Silicon Valley.

According to him, Malaysia's continued emphasis on education is based on the belief that the greatest long-term challenge to its competitiveness may not lie in the current financial regulations or exchange rate management.

He said it may lie with the country's ability to develop social software such as quality of education and enhancement of science and technology.

"In both these endeavours, the MSC will play a pivotal role. We need to harness the full power of technology and intellectual capital in order to have sustained growth.

"To achieve this, we must radically change our educational outlook. We have started this process at the grass roots level by starting our Smart Schools MSC Flagship Application.

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