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MAHATHIR-MSC

IAP TO RE-ASSESS AND RE-EVALUATE MSC'S PROGRESS, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, July 6 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) Third International Advisory Panel (IAP) meeting beginning Thursday will re-assess and re-evaluate the progress of the MSC project.

"The dialogue sessions, one-on-one meetings, seminars, roundtable sessions, conferences, visits and general networking have made it amply clear that the MSC has captured the attention and indeed the imagination of global information technology entrepreneurs," he said.

The companies taking up offers in the MSC project will create value for themselves in an environment uniquely suited to their needs, said Dr Mahathir when launching German-based Siemens' Futurelab, a state-of-the-art multimedia lab, at the Petronas Twin Towers here.

The three-day IAP meeting, to be held in Cyberjaya, about 40km south of here, will be opened by Dr Mahathir, who is also the IAP chairman.

The IAP, comprising multimedia industry leaders and gurus, was formed to advise the government on the MSC, a 750sq km area located between the Kuala Lumpur City Centre and the KL International Airport in Sepang.

The MSC is designated as a hub for the development of multimedia products and services.

The prime minister said while MSC companies would help transform Malaysia and the region, they would also be contributing towards their own role in the information age.

"What the companies learn and test in the MSC will help prepare them to solve problems faced when applying their technologies and expertise worldwide," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the MSC offered many opportunities for companies to explore multimedia technologies to their limits.

"It is by far the most comprehensive test bed devised for the purpose of innovation and testing of technologies and their applications in the information age," he said.

He said Malaysia was proud to have Siemens play an important role in the MSC.

The prime minister said that the government was going to great lengths and taking great pains to harness the power of information technology.

"The government believes that foreign firms such as Siemens will be able to test all its ideas on the application of IT not only without hindrance, but with the support in terms of cost, infrastructure and policies of the government," he said.

He said Siemens could help Malaysia to become product designers and not just assembler of products.

Dr Mahathir said the government has made available the land, the physical infrastructures, the fiscal incentives and the soft infrastructure in terms of Cyberlaws and a determined and disciplined workforce.

"But, we are short of the right technology to become innovators of multimedia contents and applications," he said.

Dr Mahathir said by being actively involved in the MSC, Siemens could share its technological know-how with Malaysian companies for mutual benefit.

"Siemens can help us create and develop applications that are culturally compatible with the various cultures of Asia. Through the MSC, Siemens can also assist local companies to intensify R & D programmes," he

said. -- BERNAMA
ES AD SHY