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International Advisory Panel begins discussions

THE Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) International Advisory Panel (IAP) began its third annual meeting at Cyberview Lodge, Cyberjaya, yesterday. The ceremony began with the launching of Cyberjaya by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is chairman of the IAP, followed by a closed-door meeting.

Multimedia Development Corp executive chairman and IAP secretary Tan Sri Dr Othman Yeop Abdullah briefed the 25 IAP members on the latest developments of the MSC.

Several discussions were held before lunch, focusing on attracting world-class companies to the MSC and accelerating the creation of a multimedia industry.

Other topics discussed on the first day included e-commerce, cyberlaws and the future direction of the MSC.

In the evening, IAP members were treated to a pre-dinner concert by the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra.

Today, IAP members will visit Putrajaya, the Federal Administrative Centre, for a networking session with key Cabinet ministers and senior government officials.

Several MSC-related events have been lined up for today. These include the opening of the Multimedia University, the Web-Shaper Exhibition and technology showcase of MSC-status companies.

Dr Mahathir will open NTT's MSC centre in the afternoon, followed by one-to-one meetings with IAP members. The scheduled meetings will continue on Saturday.

The IAP members attending the meeting are: Acer Inc chairman and chief executive Datuk Dr Stan Shih, British Telecom chief executive Sir Peter Bonfield, Cutler & Co director Dr Terry Cutler, Fujitsu Ltd chairman Tadashi Sekizawa, Hewlett Packard president and CEO Datuk Lewis Platt, LG Chemicals & LG Electronics chairman Bon-Moo Koo, Lucent Technologies chief operating officer Ben Vermaayen, Madge Networks Ltd chairman and CEO Robert Madge, and NEC Corp senior member of the board of directors Datuk Dr Tadahiro Sekimoto.

The list includes Nippon Telegraph & Telephone Corp president Jun-Ichiro Miyazu, Peking University director Prof Wang Xuan, Silicon Graphics World Trade Corp chairman Bob Bishop, Alcatel CIT chairman & CEO Manuel Gordillo, Compaq Computer Corp regional managing director Paul Blinkhorn, EDC corporate senior vice president Edward V. Yang, Intel Corp vice president of technology & manufacturing group David Marsing, Lotus Corp (IBM) vice president for Asia Pacific Raphael Tan, and Microsoft vice president for Asia Pieter Knook.

The others are Motion Picture Association senior vice president Asia-Pacific region Michael V. Connors, Motorola executive vice president and president of Asia-Pacific CD Tam, Nokia Corp senior vice president South-East Asia-Pacific Kari Ahola, Oracle senior vice president Asia-Pacific Derek Williams, Reuters managing director for Reuters Asia Jeremy Penn, Siemens AG president information & broadband sales Wolfgang Essig, and Sun Microsystems chief scientist John Gage.

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