

26 MAR 1999

IT-CHALLENGE

IT INDUSTRY MEETS NEW CHALLENGE THROUGH INFOSOC MALAYSIA '99

KUALA LUMPUR, March 26 (Bernama) -- The Malaysian IT industry has achieved its objectives of putting in place the infrastructure and technology to form a multimedia society and is now facing its next challenge, said secretary to the National IT Council (NITC) Tengku Datuk Dr Mohd Azzman Shariffadeen.

Today, technological aspects of IT are no longer critical as the IT industry needs to identify the benefits multimedia technology can offer to Malaysians, he told newsmen at a press conference here today.

"We cannot choose to delay or deny the future but be ready for it by promoting advance access and know-how of IT usage to everybody, which will shape the country's future competitiveness and success," he added.

Thus, he hoped the four-day INFOSOC MALAYSIA'99 conference and exhibition, to be held between May 20 and May 23, will succeed in conveying the idea of the public, private and non-government sectors getting involved and working together in establishing a national framework of principles, guidelines and rules for a new governance agenda in the IT industry in the 21st century.

He said the strategic intent is to ensure that the comfort and familiarity level of experience in using new information technology in the year 2020 is equal to the average person's comfort in using telephone sets today.

The INFOSOC event will involve active participation from the public, private industries and the Malaysian communities in sharing ideas in a series of discussions and workshops that will highlight issues on benefits, problems and solutions on the IT industry, particularly electronic commerce (e-commerce).

A series of pre-conference workshops will be held on May 20 and May 21 at the Majlis Perbandaran Subang Jaya (MPSJ) building and local institutions in the municipality, such as schools and colleges.

The pre-conference workshops will discuss issues related to the conference, namely the 5Es, e-community, e-public services, e-learning, e-economy and e-sovereignty while unresolved or problematic issues raised will be tabled at a special conference dialogue session with the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed on May 22.

The May 22 conference will be held at Sheraton Subang with an expected 250 to 300 delegates participating while the exposition will be held throughout the conference at Dewan Jubli Perak in Shah Alam.

The exposition will showcase IT applications that have been developed and are being developed in the realisation of the same goals - to improve the quality of work and life of all Malaysians.

-- BERNAMA

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