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Mahathir-Departure

MAHATHIR DEPARTS FOR LONDON AFTER 4-DAY US VISIT

By: Amin Husaini Harun

NEW YORK, Sept 30 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad left for London Wednesday after a four-day working visit to the United States.

While here he addressed the 54th United Nations General Assembly Wednesday, and earlier met Malaysians residing in and around New York, gave talks at the Asia Society corporate dinner, the Council on Foreign Relations luncheon and the inaugural meeting of the Malaysia-US Business Council.

He also had separate discussions with leaders of the US tourism industry and a delegation from the American Muslim Council.

Dr Mahathir ended his visit with a tour of the telecommunication R&D facility, Lucent Technologies in New Jersey.

Lucent Technologies has operations in Malaysia's Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC), the 760 sq km area south of Kuala Lumpur designated as a hub for the development of multimedia products and services.

Dr Mahathir expressed gratitude to Lucent Technologies for sending its teaching personnel to Malaysia's Multimedia University in Cyberjaya, one the world's pioneer intelligent cities in the MSC.

He said he was convinced that the cooperation between Malaysia and Lucent Technologies would benefit both parties in the advancement of technology and education.

The prime minister will spend three days in London before leaving for Zimbabwe to take part in the 3rd South Africa International Dialogue to be held at Lake Victoria.

He is scheduled to leave for home on Oct 6.

Meanwhile in SINGAPORE, Lucent Technologies said that during the visit Dr Mahathir saw demonstrations on the latest technological research for telecommunications including a "camera on a chip" and fingerprint authentication.

Lucent Technologies executive vice-president and chief operating officer Ben Verwaayen said in a statement: "We are deeply honoured to have the Prime Minister visit our laboratories. We have been working closely with the MSC and key telecom operators in Malaysia to provide leading edge technology to their growing telecommunications markets.

He said the company was committed to being part of the success of the MSC and of the telecommunications sector as a whole and was "delighted to welcome Dr Mahathir to Lucent's innovation engine".

The visit was proposed to Dr Mahathir during this year's meeting of the MSC International Advisory Panel of which Lucent Technologies is a member.

Lucent Technologies, which has an office in Singapore, said in the statement that it could help the MSC utilise state-of-the-art voice and data network technology which could serve as a model for the whole country.

-- BERNAMA

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