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NITC will take the lead in `netpreneurs' development

THE National Information Technology Council (NITC) will pave the way to create and develop more "netpreneurs" as part of a knowledge economy driven by IT and the digital economy concept.

NITC secretary Tengku Datuk Dr Mohd Azzman Shariffadeen defined "netpreneurs" as a concept where the entrepreneurs develop and expand business opportunities and network through full use of IT applications. They also make use of the important resources available in the Web and interact among themselves mainly via the Internet.

In line with this, he said, NITC will be launching the "National Census of Netpreneurs", a project of the Market Intelligence Centre to identify and register all potential producers of ideas and solutions into a central database.

"At present we have not actually started with the "netpreneurs" programme but the council expects it to come into play in the next six months or within a year.

"Originally NITC has planned to commence with the programme earlier, however, due to the current economic downturn, there was a slight delay in its implementation," he said in Seri Kembangan yesterday.

The database will also serve to link the potential local "netpreneurs" with other "netpreneurs" worldwide, he said, adding that some of the information within the database will be made public while others which involve business strategy data will be maintained as confidential. He added that the effort to promote the formation of "netpreneurs" community is crucial as it will also be one of the significant catalysts for generating the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) in the new knowledge economic era.

Mohd Azzman was speaking to reporters after officiating at the launch of the Multimedia Asia 1999 (MMA '99), the official conference and exhibition aimed at promoting the MSC.

The MMA '99 conference and workshop will be held from September 22 to 23, and its exhibition will take place from September 23 to 26, both at the Malaysia International Exhibition and Showroom.

Themed "Re-aligning for A New Economy", the MMA '99 conference and workshop is to position the MSC as an important hub in the emerging knowledge economy. Other special highlights include the discussion of key issues and challenges faced by MSC-status companies and the progress in the implementation of the MSC flagship applications.

The target participants of this event includes heads of public-listed companies and multi-national corporations, top government officials, technopreneurs, venture capitalists, economists and analysts.

At the same time, MMA '99 will incorporate Virtual Commonwealth II, a world class dialogue using state-of-the-art tele-conferencing technology on September 21 1999.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed will present his keynote address during Virtual Commonwealth II.

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