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PM urges Koreans to increase MSC activities

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THE Prime Minister told South Korean businessmen to use the Multimedia Super Corridor "to reach the world", urging them to increase their business activities at the MSC.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said this would boost their efforts to improve trade between the two countries.

Dr Mahathir said the fact that South Korea already had a representative in the MSC's International Advisory Panel meant that it was on solid footing. He said the country had the technical and financial muscle to be more competitive.

"Take advantage of the research carried out by the American, British and German companies," he told South Korean journalists after witnessing the signing of a MoU between Golden Life Bhd and Emkay Bhd at the Langkasuka Port in Langkawi.

The Prime Minister said researchers should be able to interact at the MSC.

"Our idea is that researchers can meet formally or informally in the pubs or clubs there or play golf together where they interact and discuss ideas."

Dr Mahathir said the result would be greater creativity with investors benefitting from the ideas of researchers world wide.

He also spoke of future commerce with no effective borders where the MSC could take on the role as the "centre of the world" by touting its soft infrastructure of cyberlaws that validate digital signatures.

The MSC, he said, could also become a hub for electronic business and electronic government.

In particular, the MSC's foreign knowledge workers had no restrictions to enter or purchase property though capital gains tax are applicable, he said.

Acknowledging also that other parts of the world, even Korea, could buy and sell goods over the Internet, the Prime Minister put in his own pitch for the MSC's specialities which can be adopted by anyone.

"Why the MSC?," he asked journalists present.

"We claim it to be unique ... besides recognising all deals made in it, the MSC is also a real test bed for e-commerce and e-government in an almost independent country."

On whether this represented "e-democracy, he said: "Oh, we are very democratic."

He said Korean contractors were responsible for many projects in Malaysia, including buildings, a breakwater in Langkawi, the Penang Bridge and one of the Petronas Twin Towers.

On Korean products for sale here, he said Malaysia hoped to buy products like fabrics and silk which were not sufficiently marketed in the country.

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