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24 key IT figures to attend advisory panel meeting

THE meeting of the MSC's International Advisory Panel next week will see the participation of 24 key personalities in the information technology industry - 13 IAP members and 11 representatives/observers.

Multimedia Development Corporation executive chairman Tan Sri Dr Othman Yeop Abdullah said yesterday the meeting - the third - would discuss a number of issues such as cyberlaws, human resources, intellectual property and censorship.

The three-day meeting begins on July 8 and will be held at the Cyberview Lodge in Cyberjaya, near Kuala Lumpur.

"Some of the issues were touched on in the last meeting in February 1998, but we will go into more in-depth discussion and get their expertise into these and other cross-border issues this time," he told a Press conference.

The Multimedia Super Corridor is a 15x50 kilometre swath of land dedicated to the development of information and communication technologies, equipped with a world-class physical and information infrastructure including a 2.5-10 gigabit digital fibre optic backbone.

It aims to revolutionise how Malaysians and others in the region do business and become the regional launch site for companies developing or using leading multimedia technology.

The IAP, a panel of 43 global experts and decision-makers in fields like ICT, entertainment, business and public policy, provides counsel to the Prime Minister on shaping the MSC, its policies and environment.

This year's meeting will also see two new faces contributing their expertise on the Multimedia Super Corridor's - Dr Terry Cutler, director of Cutler & Company from Australia, and Prof Wang Xuan, director of Peking University.

Aside from Cutler and Wang, the attendees this year are:

- \* Dr Stan Shih, chairman and CEO of Acer Incorporated;
- \* Serge Tchuruk, chairman and CEO of Alcatel Alsthom;
- \* Bob Bishop, chairman of Silicon Graphics World Trade Corporation;
- \* Sir Peter Bonfield, chief executive of British Telecom;
- \* Tadashi Sekizawa, chairman of Fujitsu Ltd;
- \* Lewis Platt, chairman, president and CEO of Hewlett Packard;
- \* Bon-Moo Koo, chairman of LG Chemicals and LG Electronics;
- \* Ben Verwaayen, COO, Lucent Technologies;
- \* Jun-Ichiro Miyazu, president, Nippon Telegraph and Telephone

Corporation;

- \* Robert Madge, chairman and CEO, Madge Networks Ltd; and,

\* Dr Tadahiro Sekimoto, senior member of board of directors, NEC Corporation.

Still to confirm are Ambassador Diana Lady Dougan, senior adviser fo the Centre for Strategic and International Studies, and Softbank Corp president and CEO Masayoshi Son.

Others who will attend as observers are David Marsing (Intel), Pieter Knook (Microsoft), Michael V. Connors (Motion Picture Association), C.D. Tam (Motorola), Kari Ahola (Nokia), Masanobu Suzuki (NTT Communications), Derek Williams (Oracle), Jeremy Penn (Reuters), Dr Roland Koch (Siemens AG), and John Cage (Sun Microsystems).

Othman said the number of attendees to this year's meeting was within the MDC's expectation and there had been no let-up in terms of support and

counsel given to the MSC.

Among those who have confirmed they are not attending are management consultant Kenichi Ohmae, who is recuperating from a mountain biking accident, and strategic thinker Alvin Toffler.

The first day will see the official opening of Cyberjaya by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in a simple ceremony at the Cyberview Lodge's Apec Gardens, witnessed by the IAP members.

On the second day there will be a networking session between the participants and key ministers and Government officials at Putrajaya, the official opening of the Multimedia University and a technology showcase by small start-ups as well as world-class "web-shaper" companies.

Later in the day, they will witness the official launch of the NTT MSC Research and Development Centre, followed by one-to-one meetings between the IAP members and Dr Mahathir, continuing until the following day.

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