

Might expects to finalise council membership tomorrow: CEO

By LOKMAN MANSOR
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THE Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology (Might) expects to finalise membership of the Malaysian Aerospace Council by tomorrow, its chief executive officer, Dr Ahmed Tasir Lope Pihie, says.

The council, to be placed under the Chief Secretary to the Government's office, will play a pivotal role in coordinating aerospace development in Malaysia.

It will comprise leaders of both public and private sectors, and will be chaired by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"Might is preparing the appointment letters to members of the council and the agenda for the first council meeting," he said in a special briefing on Might's activities to Dr Mahathir in Seri Kembangan yesterday.

Ahmed Tasir said one of the items to be discussed at the council's first meeting will be the development of human resources to meet the industry's needs.

"We are happy to report that the Malaysia Airlines-RMAF military conversion programme, recommended in the National Aerospace Blueprint, is unique and probably the first of its kind in the world," he added.

Under the blueprint, the structure of the Malaysian aerospace industry will see consolidation of the efforts of key aerospace operators in Malaysia, namely the Royal Malaysian Armed Forces (RMAF), Malaysia Airlines and Malaysia Airports, and general aviation companies.

Engineering and manufacturing activities will be anchored in companies such as MAS Aero-technologies, SME Group of Companies, RMAF Engineering and Phileo Aviation.

In addition, Might has co-developed with the Institut Aeronautique et Spatial a brand new

MBA Aerospace Programme started in France in 1999 to be transferred to Malaysia in 2003.

On Might's International Outreach programme, Ahmed Tasir said missions have been sent to Uzbekistan, the US, Canada, Iran, the UK, China, France, Turkey, Japan, Indonesia and Australia.

"We have identified our technology counterparts, network partners and established collaborative mechanisms. We have opened the doors to business and research collaborations. Our future missions will give emphasis to Muslim-majority and non-English speaking countries," he added.

Ahmed Tasir said among Might's immediate tasks will be the presentation of three more blueprints or action plans, on the pharmaceutical, road haulage and herbal industries.

Might has already submitted to the Government the action plans on the telecommunications, aerospace and automotive industries.

Also in the pipeline is the establishment of a Malaysian Herbal Corp, a business-led entity, which will oversee the overall development of the industry and invest in key competencies along the value chain such as R & D, product development, extraction, packaging, branding and marketing.

"Might believes that up to now, it has delivered the mandate given. Might is prepared to undertake bigger responsibilities in spearheading future development in high technology," Ahmed Tasir added.

He later accompanied Dr Mahathir to launch Might's Advanced Composite Directory and Aerospace Directory. The directories provide vital information on the various organisations currently involved in the industry in Malaysia, together with facilities available and current capabilities.