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`Giants' expected at IAP meeting

Abdul Razak Ahmad

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - Leaders from a host of international Information Technology giants have confirmed their participation in the Multimedia Super Corridor's Fourth International Advisory Panel Meeting here starting Thursday.

They include Compaq, to be represented by its president and chief executive officer Michael Capellas; Silicon Graphics Inc (Bob Bishop, chairman and CEO); and The Acer Group (Datuk Dr Stan Shih, chairman and CEO).

Others expected are from Madge Networks (Robert Madge, chairman and CEO); Fujitsu Limited (Tadashi Sekizawa, chairman); NEC Corporation (Datuk Dr Tadahihiro Sekimoto, chairman Emeritus); and Lotus Development Corporation (Al Zollar, president and CEO).

The officials are part of the 29 IAP members who have confirmed their attendance for the meeting. The IAP has 44 members.

The three-day meeting, to be held at the Multimedia Development Corporation in Cyberjaya, is scheduled to be opened by Prime Minister and IAP chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

A highlight of the meeting will be the launching of the E-Village in Dengkil, Selangor on Friday.

Several closed-door briefing sessions are planned for the IAP members, who will be updated on the progress of the MSC, and on topics such as "The Digital Economy: Managing the Transformation" and "The Positioning of the MSC".

Dr Mahathir is expected to conduct one-on-one meetings with the IAP members in two sessions on Friday and Saturday.

A two-day Business Summit will also be held and attended by several IAP members, beginning Friday.

Among the other top IT company officials who have confirmed their participation at the meeting are Lucent Technologies vice-chairman Ben Verwaayen; Sun Microsystems chief researcher and director of science office Dr John Gage; and Intel senior corporate vice-president and general manager of manufacturing group Michael Splinter.

An exposition known as the MSC Expo 2000 will also be held in conjunction with the IAP meeting.

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