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GATES-VISION

GATES PROJECTS VISION OF "BUSINESS WITHOUT BARRIERS"

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 13 (Bernama) -- Technology appearing in the form of personal computers (PCs) and the Internet is changing the rule of productivity, said Microsoft chairman and chief software architect, Bill Gates here today.

Speaking at the Microsoft Executive Summit to unveil the company's vision of "Business without Barriers", he said wireless telecommunications, small screen devices, and handwriting-recognition software would drive up the importance of PCs.

The unification of such technology would bring in tools that make "you appear not to be leaving the office (even as) you leave the office," said Gates, who was on his third visit to Malaysia so far.

The one-day Microsoft Executive Summit, the second to be held in Malaysia, brings corporate captains and business leaders together to share knowledge on the digital economy's impact on practices and operations.

Over 600 guests from top-tier companies in Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia and the Philippines attended the summit.

Gates said with high volume of traffic moving across the Internet, achieving total reliability becomes a concern.

Buying expensive hardware like a mainframe is not good enough for real time applications, he said, adding that full reliability would be achieved with an equipment or a system that can perform multiple tasks.

"If one of the systems has a problem, it could turn over part of the necessary work to another system," said Gates, who became Microsoft's chief software architect in January, devoting his attention fully on Microsoft.NET.

Microsoft.NET would provide easier, more personalised and more productive Internet experiences by harnessing constellations of smart devices and websites with advanced software via Internet Protocols and formats.

Gates' last visit to Malaysia took place two-and-a-half years ago. Gates' programme for his current visit includes the official opening of Microsoft Knowledge Capital Centre Sdn Bhd (MKCC) -- Microsoft's MSC-status company in Cyberjaya.

It also features meetings with key industry, corporate and government leaders, including the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Founded in 1975, Microsoft is the worldwide leader in software, services and Internet technologies for personal and business computing.--BERNAMA

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