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MSC-INDONESIA

INDONESIA INTENDS TO USE MSC AS A BLUEPRINT

KUALA LUMPUR, March 7 (Bernama) -- Indonesia, inspired by the success of Malaysia's very own Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) project, intends to use it as a blueprint for a similar project.

Towards this effort, a five-member consortium of Indonesian IT-based companies and organisations would collaborate with the Multimedia Development Corporation (MDC) to develop a project-oriented cooperative arrangement for its multimedia project.

The Indonesian consortium consists of Institut Teknologi Bandung, PT Indosat Tbk, PT Sisindosat, Yayasan Ilmu Pengetahuan & Teknologi Indonesia and PT Krakatua Information Technology.

Initially, the collaboration will focus on the prospects of developing e-commerce, e-government and smart school applications for Indonesia's multimedia industry.

This cooperation would be formalised via a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the consortium and MDC to be signed in Jakarta, Indonesia on Thursday and witnessed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Following the MOU, a delegate comprising Malaysian IT businesses will go on a working visit to Indonesia in April to work out the details on the potential areas of development.

The delegation would be led by MDC's executive chairman Tan Sri Othman Yeop Abdullah.

In a press conference at MDC Cyberjaya headquarters today, senior vice president Dr Mohamed Arif Nun said Indonesia's serious intention had dispelled recent criticisms thrown at the MSC.

It demonstrated that the success of the MSC had inspired others to look at it as a highly viable and concrete model for similar projects of their own, he added.

Dr Ir Munawar Ahmad, chief IT studies and telecommunications, Institut Teknologi Bandung and one of the five officials representing the consortium members, said apart from working closely with Malaysia, it was also working with other countries having "smart areas".

Indonesia would compare concepts and applications in these "smart areas" and implement the best ones for its own multimedia project.

Among them are the Silicon Valley of the United States and Cyberport in Hong Kong. Other "smart areas" Indonesia was working with are in Germany and Singapore.

MDC's collaboration with Indonesia is the fourth link with a foreign IT initiative. Others were with the United States in the HUBS (hospitals, universities, businesses and schools) project, Sri Lanka in on-line electronic travel booking systems, and United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Egypt in smart schools, telemedicine e-commerce and cyberlaws. -- BERNAMA

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