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Matsushita keen to introduce hi-tech digitalised home concept

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MATSUSHITA Electric Industrial Co Ltd of Japan is keen to introduce its HII (Home Information Infrastructure) concept - a hi-tech and digitalised living environment - in Malaysia once a full-fledged digital network and service has been established in the country.

Its president Datuk Yoichi Morishita said in the near future the hi-tech domestic network would be an integral feature of homes in Malaysia.

He said the Multimedia Super Corridor being spearheaded by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was a positive move towards this direction.

"We create the HII to promote the development, standardisation and commercialisation of an in-house network that will link social infrastructure with the growing digital network.

"The United States will be the first country outside Japan to enjoy this modern living concept as it has an established network infrastructure and service providers such as electricity, medical centre and broadcasting stations.

"Once all these essentials are ready in Malaysia, we will introduce HII," he told Malaysian journalists during a media tour of the company in Japan recently.

The trip was jointly organised by Matsushita Electric Co (M) Bhd and National Panasonic (M) Sdn Bhd.

Presently, Matsushita has a model HII House at its Multimedia Centre in Tokyo.

The company has been actively involved in the construction of the information infrastructure, development of network-compatible home appliances, systems and services for the HII project.

It was revealed that each HII system will cost about six million yen (RM216,000). The amount excludes the cost of home appliances and the house.

Morishita said HII would be the standard home of the year 2003. It will offer comfort, security, convenience and environmentally-friendly living quarters.

Under this concept, the home information infrastructure makes entertainment, business and learning all available at home at the touch of a button.

"The HII House is in harmony with the coming networked society and provides a solution to the ageing population and environment protection," he said.

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