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IAP-VENTURE CAPITAL

M'SIAN VENTURE CAPITALS TOLD TO TEAM-UP WITH FOREIGN VCS

By: Mohd Arshi Daud

CYBERJAYA, Sept 7 (Bernama) -- Malaysia's infant venture capital (VC) industry and technopreneurship would get a jumpstart if its VC companies could form partnerships with VCs from other countries, said MSC IAP member Dr Gilbert Amelio today.

"By these partnerships, for instance American VC companies, you'll have the ability to teach young people to come up with new ideas," said Dr Amelio, who is a partner of the Parkside Group and chief executive officer of Beneventure Capital.

Speaking to newsmen at the sidelines of the fourth Multimedia Super Corridor International Advisory Panel (MSC IAP) meeting here, he said that the partnerships would enable the creation of infrastructure, knowledge and momentum to develop the VC industry.

The three-day IAP meeting, chaired by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad began today.

Venture capital is basically equity investment in small and medium-sized, unlisted companies with the investor participating to some degree in the management process.

Stressing that VC has a crucial role in ensuring the success of the MSC, Dr Amelio said his attendance at the IAP meeting also include exploring how his company could participate in the project.

Dr Amelio added that his company intended to set a VC fund worth US\$150 million (RM570 million) to be invested in critical markets which might include Malaysia.

Meanwhile an IAP representative, Roland Koch, president of information & communication networks group of Siemens AG, said VC is a strong pillar to boost entrepreneurship in Malaysia.

He said that VC is not about the business of lending money but of having a business perspective in investment.

Affirming Siemen AG's further investment in the MSC project, he said: "We will definitely expand our MSC's engagement and are now evaluating opportunities in e-business."

The MSC is a 750 sq km zone, south of Kuala Lumpur designated as a hub for the development of multimedia products and services.

Meanwhile, Compaq Computer Corporation president and chief executive officer Michael D Capellas said that his company is looking at investment in MSC's smart school and e-government flagship projects.

The IAP member added that Compaq was also in talk over local assembly and manufacturing of information technology products. -- BERNAMA

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