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Mahathir-MSC

MSC TO PROMOTE NEXT-GENERATION TECHNOLOGY THROUGH R&D

KUALA LUMPUR, March 31 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) would promote the development of the next generation's multimedia technologies through collaborative Research and Development (R&D) efforts among various bodies.

"The comprehensive and internationally focused R&D cluster, driven by strong government commitment and guarantees, will allow the MSC to lead Asia's R&D initiative into the Information Age," he said during the Asia Pacific MSC Information Technology and Telecommunication Awards (APMITTA) here tonight.

To meet the objective, efforts needed to be renewed to develop a cluster of collaborating world-class corporate R&D centres, universities, public research institutions and other industry players, Dr Mahathir said.

He said Malaysia and the Asia Pacific region could not afford to be left out of the dynamic global information technology progress, and this could be only be done by having a deliberate programme of R&D in the relevant fields.

MSC is an intelligent multimedia hub located south of Kuala Lumpur.

He said among the key strategies in providing focus on the R&D were the MSC flagship initiatives which were critical in ensuring that the MSC was for companies to create and innovate.

"The necessary core elements are the encouragement of corporate R&D, the setting up of a new Multimedia University (MMU) and the development of large scale R&D pilot projects," said Dr Mahathir.

Later, the Prime Minister presented awards to the winners in various categories, including Informix Sdn Bhd for Best of Electronic Government Applications, Iris Corporation for Best of Multipurpose Card Solutions and e-Business Sdn Bhd for Best of Software Applications.

Other winners included E-Magazine Online Sdn Bhd for Best of Content Development, Computer Protocol (M) Sdn Bhd for Best of Value Added Communications Technologies, Asia TravelMart.Com for Best of Start-Up Companies and VMS Technology Sdn Bhd for Best of Industrial Commercial Products.

In the Best of Student Projects category, the School of Engineering and Information Technology of Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) and Ahmad Fariz Hanapiah were the winners.

Ahmad, 13, also grabbed the Prime Minister's award (merit category) for his "Malaysian Soccer Online" design, while E-Business Sdn Bhd and VMS Technology Sdn Bhd were both chosen to receive the same award under the highly acclaimed category.

Also present at the ceremony were Multimedia Development Corporation (MDC) executive chairman Tan Sri Dr Othman Yeop Abdullah, Energy, Communications and Multimedia Minister Datuk Leo Moggie and Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Abdul Halim Ali.

-- BERNAMA

MHI YBY