

PM: Pick-up in electronics set to fuel growth

By MOKHTAR HANAFIAH

A pick-up in electronics exports, including that to the US, is expected to fuel the Malaysian economy's recovery in the 4th quarter, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

He said imports of intermediate goods had picked up and that order books were now filling up again.

"There will be a gradual start to produce and export to other countries, including to the US. That what has given us some optimism of a recovery in the US economy. So, we expect that by the 4th quarter, there should be recovery in the Malaysian economy," he said.

Dr Mahathir said this during a

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press conference after chairing the 5th International Advisory Panel (IAP) meeting of the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) in Cyberjaya yesterday.

A total of eight IAP members and 18 IAP representatives attended the 2-day meeting, which began yesterday. They included five new members from Computer Associates, Infosys Technologies Ltd, SAP AG, Dell Computer Corp and Heritage Foundation.

Dr Mahathir said the MSC project had been able to attract foreign investments despite the global economic slowdown.

He said the MSC's original target was to attract 500 high-tech companies by 2003, but so far, it had

attracted the participation of 554 companies, of which 46 were world-class companies.

"Investments are still coming in. We have noticed that the global economic slowdown has not affected the MSC so much. That is why we see the number of companies investing in this project still growing," Dr Mahathir said.

He added that demand for office space and accommodation in the MSC was also growing and it was now making provisions for that.

On the MSC's e-village project, Dr Mahathir said the government was trying to find another party to carry on with the project as its previous developer was facing financial difficulties.