

06 SEP 2001

Panel-Meeting

DR MAHATHIR CHAIRS FIFTH MSC-IAP MEETING

CYBERJAYA, Sept 6 (Bernama) -- The fifth meeting of the Multimedia Super Corridor-International Advisory Panel (MSC-IAP) was held here today with the participation of its eight members and 14 representatives from information technology (IT) and multimedia companies and organisations.

The Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad chaired the meeting held at the Cyberview Lodge here.

The panel comprises some of the best minds in IT and multimedia whose counsel has helped in the development of the MSC, a 750 sq km area between Kuala Lumpur and the KL International Airport in Sepang, as a hub for the development for multimedia services and products.

A number of issues raised by the IAP had prompted the Multimedia Development Corporation (MDC), which oversees the development of the MSC, to take necessary actions relating to cyberlaws, human resource, intellectual property and censorship.

The first IAP meeting in 1997 was held in Palo Alto, California and the subsequent meetings, in Malaysia.

The eight IAP members present were Centre for Strategic and International Studies senior adviser Ambassador Diana Lady Dougan; Cutler & Company Pte Ltd managing director Dr Terry Cutler; Infosys Technologies Ltd chairman and chief executive officer Narayana Murthy and Sun Microsystems chief researcher Dr John Gage.

NEC Corporation chairman emeritus Datuk Dr Tadahiro Sekimoto; Sienna Ventures senior partner Dr Gilbert Amelio; NTT Corporation president Jun-Ichiro Miyazu and Stanford University's Herbert Hoover Professor of Public and Private Management Emeritus Prof William Miller.

The 14 IAP representatives were from Intel Corp, BtexasCT Technologies, the Heritage Foundation, Fujitsu Ltd, IBM Asean/South Asia, NTT Communication, SAP Asia, Microsoft Asia, Ericsson Asia Pacific, Siemens, Computer Associates, SGI Asia Pacific, Oracle and Motorola Electronics.

According to the programme as distributed in the MDC's media kit, most of today's proceedings were behind closed doors, including Dr Mahathir's opening remarks this morning.

Today's discussions focused on updates of MSC's progress besides presentations by four MSC companies and a session on the MSC's future course.

Dr Mahathir is scheduled to hold a media conference later today before hosting a dinner for the delegates at his official residence in Putrajaya.

The three-day MSC-IAP meeting will also see him open the MSC-Multimedia Asia Expo 2001 at the Putra World Trade Centre in Kuala Lumpur tomorrow and hold one-on-one meetings with the IAP members and representatives.

As of last Aug 30, 488 of the 554 companies and institutions accorded MSC-status are already in operation while 18 are dormant.

The status of 38 other companies have been revoked while two were granted revocation extension and eight were incorporated as of that date.

The MSC-status companies are mainly involved in software development and Internet-based businesses.

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