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Easier process for MSC status

Firdaus Abdullah

CYBERJAYA, Mon. - The Multimedia Development Corporation (MDC) has taken all the necessary steps to ensure that ICT companies applying for Multimedia Super Corridor-status can do so without much hassle.

MDC executive chairman Tan Sri Dr Othman Yeop Abdullah said that MDC has taken note of feedback and has set up an action plan to further simplify the process of MSC-status application.

"In fact, from the beginning of this year we have simplified the process whereby it would be customer friendly ... we have formed a special group to develop greater skills to respond to customers," Dr Othman told the media during a press briefing of the upcoming fifth MSC-International Advisory Panel meeting next month.

He said MDC was also making the necessary adjustments and simplifying the existing application procedures so that applying companies could complete the process themselves.

"From our statistics, almost 95 per cent of the applicants this year were able to go through the process themselves without having to appoint consultants, only the foreign based companies still use (the services of) consultants as they are not here," he said, responding to a question on the alleged red-tape which scared away fresh applicants.

Dr Othman also told the briefing today that the MSC had actually registered tremendous achievement by being able to attract 541 ICT-based so far.

"Our target was only 500 companies by the year 2003, but as we have reached the target much earlier we have now decided to hike up the hurdle by 50 per cent to a new target of 750 companies by 2003," he explained.

He added that MDC has also received about 200 fresh applications which was at the final stages of evaluation now.

"We have also revoked the MSC status of 28 companies because of non-compliance with certain terms and conditions stipulated on approval, for instance some failed to start operations within the stipulated time-frame of six months after approval while some failed to operate within the designated cities," he cited.

On the IAP meeting which would be held from September 6 to 8, Dr Othman said 21 IAP panel members have confirmed their participation in this year's meeting which would be held in conjunction with the MSC-Multimedia Asia Expo 2001, the Asia-Pacific ICT Awards and the third MSC-IAP Multimedia Business Summit.

He said that among the topics to be discussed during the meeting was the transition towards the second phase of the MSC.

"The shift from Phase 1 to Phase 2 will be deliberated upon, particularly the rolling out of the services to the entire country and also the region," he said.

He added that MSC-flagship applications such as the Smart School project would also be expanded.

"MDC aims to position the MSC as the premier location of choice for local and foreign companies, and investors," he concluded. As in the past four MSC-IAP meetings, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will be chairing the meetings.