

16/05/2001

Indian IT companies welcomed

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - Malaysia welcomes greater participation of Indian software developers in the second phase expansion of the Multimedia Super Corridor.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad said the Indian IT companies, particularly those with advanced expertise in software development, should play a more active role in the MSC.

"MSC has progressed well ... we are in the process of identifying new flagship projects in the MSC and I'm sure Indian software companies would be able to join in and play their part."

He was replying to a question from the floor during the Malaysia-India Business Forum, officiated by Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

Dr Mahathir explained that apart from welcoming direct investments from the Indian IT sector, Malaysia also encouraged greater co-operation in IT content development.

"The Indian film industry is a good area where co-operation could be enhanced, for example the virtual film-making technology which from what I understand enables movies without actors," he said to a loud applause from the 800-odd participants of the forum organised by Asian Strategy & Leadership Institute (ASLI).

Also responding to a question as to whether Malaysia would have special mechanisms or offer direct investment opportunities to Indian companies, Dr Mahathir said the country had always welcomed Indian companies and would continue to do so.

"You have your representative on our International Advisory Panel and there will be more roles to play in the future ... we believe in working together and complimenting each other," he added.

The Prime Minister also explained that Malaysia has been able to progress at a faster pace after formatting the Malaysia Incorporated method of co-operation between the Government and the private sector.

He said that emulating the Japan Incorporated idea has been fruitful for Malaysia as it has been able to give birth to a greater understanding between the two main partners in national development.

"If the same philosophy is applied in our relations then things can improve faster and everyone can benefit with multiplying effects."

He was also asked how Malaysia could play a more active role in the development of other sectors in India, apart from infrastructure.

During the forum, the Confederation of Indian Industry also announced its decision to set up a regional office in Malaysia in a move to enhance co-operation and improve working relations with the Malaysian Government as well as the private sector.

(END)