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Industry welcomes plan to make Malaysia an IT hub

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MALAYSIA'S information technology (IT) sector lauds the emphasis given by the Government to make Malaysia an IT and multimedia communications hub in the region by 2005 when the Eight Malaysia Plan (8MP) ends.

Skali Group president Tengku Farith Rithaudeen said both the Government and the private sector would garner their resources together to realise, execute and implement this vision.

"Efforts by both sectors are already underway to make Malaysia a regional IT hub by 2005," Tengku Farith said in a statement released in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

The 8MP was tabled by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in Parliament on Monday.

"The rise of IT, multimedia and communications sector bear witness to Malaysia's exploitation and capitalisation on its enormous potential in addressing the international platform," Tengku Farith said.

He added these will result in a wider market expansion and encourage proper execution of skilled human capital, expertise, in depth experience and rich resources.

"Its benefits can also have a spillover effect on rural areas where adequate and numerous training will be given to village folk of all races," he said.

He added women particularly can now have a greater avenue to market their products both locally and internationally with the advent of e-commerce and the Internet.

"However, we need to strive to create a conducive IT surrounding where permanent and dedicated training sessions can be given consistently to help sustain interest and dispel worries and phobias of the IT world," he said.

"To eradicate fear of the technicalities of the IT, simplified training in a lay man's term is needed within this sector."

He added the community needs to capitalise on the IT medium wherever it is accessible in a simple and comprehensive manner within the perimeter set by the Government.

"The incorporation of the Internet is without a doubt the new paradigm shift that will shape and outline part of the Malaysian economy.

"With the strength of an IT-savvy society, equipped with a broad range of knowledge and resources, Malaysia will one day stand tall in the world," he concluded.

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