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Input for e-Village from world of entertainment

THE creative multimedia industry's potential under the Entertainment-Village project can be tapped and glitches overcome with the experienced inputs of foreign filmmakers.

The inaugural meeting of the E-Village International Advisory Panel on Thursday will see the sharing of best practices and benchmarking in similar fields elsewhere in the world.

"We need to hear about the experiences of these people from a similar industry and see if we are in the right direction," Kamil Othman, head of the Creative Multimedia/E-village project under the Multimedia Development Corporation Sdn Bhd, said yesterday in Kuala Lumpur.

"Most of the glitches we encounter in this industry are inherited from previous systems, including the Censorship Act of 1957, but we are trying to converge both worlds (Information Age and the old system) here.

"We also recognise the fact that this industry is not just about building studios; we need supporting skills and incentives," he said.

The E-Village project, located on a 480 ha site near Dengkil, is being developed by Entertainment Village Sdn Bhd., the first tenant at the site. It has now been joined by Astrio Sdn Bhd, another MSC company.

The IAP members attending Thursday's meeting come from broad-based disciplines and industry covering education, the entertainment sector, design, technology and content industries.

The two-day long meeting will be attended by foreign personalities like Golden Harvest Entertainment Co Ltd co-founder and chairman Raymond Chow, Vancouver Film School founder and president James Griffin, Digital Studios Pte Ltd of India president K. Balachander, Singapore Film Commission chairman Jennie Chua, Centro Digital Pictures president and CEO John Chu.

They will meet Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on the first day of the meeting.

The second day would be filled with discussions on setting directions for the E-Village and Malaysia's creative industries.

The growth potential of the industry is reflected by 22 per cent of the total 473 MSC companies currently engaged in various aspects of creative multimedia.

To date about RM1.6 billion has been invested by 100 creative multimedia companies with MSC-status with a projected revenue of about RM3.2 billion.

MDC, which is the facilitator of the E-Village project, also plans to take part in Showbiz 2001 Los Angeles in June.

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