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Mahathir-Flagship

MSC TO INCREASE EXISTING FLAGSHIPS

CYBERJAYA, Sept 6 (Bernama) -- The Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) will increase its existing six flagships to include distance learning and technopreneurial development, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

"We discussed a lot on distance learning which would be something of a new project for us because we want to change the way we teach children in the classrooms while using new software that will enable the teacher to teach following the new software," the prime minister said.

He said this at a news conference after the first day of the three-day MSC International Advisory Panel (IAP) meeting at the Cyberview Lodge here.

He said, for example, that using the new flagship of distance learning, the teaching of English through a software, which is in its development stage, would not only benefit students but also teachers.

"The software for this is being developed and we think this will enable our children to not just learn English but also Mathematics and Science using the best teaching techniques (to be provided through the software)."

Multimedia Development Corporation executive chairman Tan Sri Dr Othman Yeop Abdullah, who was also present at the news conference, said the technopreneurial flagship was created to spur the growth of small- and medium-scale industries.

"It is also formed to prepare the small- and medium-scale industries for the world market," he said.

He said this new flagship would be developed by the Science, Technology and Environment Ministry.

The six MSC flagships now are electronic government, multipurpose card, smart schools, telehealth, research and development cluster and e-business.

On the meeting this morning, Dr Mahathir said it could be described as useful and a session for the sharing of ideas.

"We explained to the 26 IAP members on the situation in the country and the region and our continued commitment to information and communication technology," he said.

The prime minister said the meeting also discussed the success so far of the existing flagships of the MSC and the impact of the US economic downturn on Malaysia and the region.

Meanwhile, Education Minister Tan Sri Musa Mohamad said the distance learning initiative to be undertaken would be used to complement the smart schools flagship.

"However, the smart school will remain the core," he added. He said the distance learning flagship was a new initiative from the private sector and would only be used to complement the smart school concept.

"We are looking at this and I think some of the initiatives will be shown tomorrow at the MSC expo (at the Putra World Trade Centre)," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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