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'MSC is well on track to create a world-class information hub'

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PUTRAJAYA, Sat. - The Multimedia Super Corridor fifth International Advisory Panel Meeting entered its third and final successful day today with the continuation of the one-on-one meetings with Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at his office here.

The meetings with the Prime Minister, who chairs the panel, commenced at 9am and lasted about four hours.

Today's meetings involved two panel members and six representatives.

The members were Centre for Strategic and International Studies senior advisor Ambassador Diana Lady Dougan and Sun Microsystems chief researcher and director of science office Dr John Gage.

Among the representatives who met Dr Mahathir were Motorola executive vice-president C.D. Tam, Microsoft Corporation vice-president Micheal Rawding and Ericsson (Asia Pacific) executive vice-president Kjell Sorme.

Others included Alcatel (South East Asia) vice-president Olivier Picard, IBM (South East Asia) general manager Antonio J. Romero and Nokia Corporation executive vice-president Mikko Heikkonen.

Each met Dr Mahathir for about 30 minutes.

Yesterday, two members and three representatives of the panel had similar one-on-one meetings with the Prime Minister.

This year's IAP meeting has been hailed as a success, with many quarters projecting that the MSC will accomplish all three phases of its long-term plan (1996-2020).

IAP members expressed their confidence that the MSC was on track to create a multimedia environment that will transform Malaysia into a world-class information technology hub.

The panelists were also of the opinion that the slowdown in the United States would not affect the long-term growth of the MSC.

The Multimedia Development Corporation, which manages the development of the MSC, has said it would implement a new flagship, incorporating a design centre for manufacturing and bio-technology.

Also in the pipeline is the important area of human resource development.

As of August 30, 554 companies had MSC status, of which 363 are locally-based while another 46 are multi-nationals.

They are involved in, among other things, software development and e-commerce services.