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MAHATHIR-MSD

PM: NEW MSC FLAGSHIP APPLICATIONS BEING IDENTIFIED

KUALA LUMPUR, May 15 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said new flagship projects for the second phase of the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) are being identified.

"We are going to identify the new flagship projects very soon and there will be a role for international companies to participate (in the MSC)," he said during a dialogue session at the Malaysia-India Business Forum here today.

The MSC, he added, had progressed and attended to flagship projects in the first phase, where some had taken off while some were being processed and refined.

The flagship applications under the first wave include electronic government, multipurpose smart cards, tele-medicine, multipurpose cards, telecommunications, borderless marketing, research and development and worldwide manufacturing web.

Dr Mahathir was responding to a question on how Indian companies could participate actively in the MSC posed by a member of the visiting delegation of Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

The Malaysian prime minister said the MSC needed more investment by foreign companies as it depended a lot on foreign direct investment (FDI).

At the same time, he said Indian expertise, especially in software content and film technology, was very much needed and such types of research could be located at the MSC.

To another question on the impressive infrastructure that Malaysia had, Dr Mahathir attributed the developmental progress to the Malaysia Incorporated concept.

Under this concept, he explained that the government and private sector were members of the same "corporation" and the transformation to this mindset had enabled Malaysia to progress even faster.

"We learnt this from Japan, which was earlier being condemned for creating the Japan Incorporated concept. We adopted this openly. And if India and Malaysia have the same philosophy, we can move very fast," he added.

He said Malaysia and India should exchange information on how both countries could expedite their developments and learn the do's and don't's.

Meanwhile, the Business Forum earlier saw the signing of 15 memoranda of understanding (MOU) between the private sectors of Malaysia and India.

Agreements were signed between Gemrusa Capital Sdn Bhd and Mascon Global Ltd, Petra Corp and Mid-Day Multimedia Ltd, United Engineers (M) Bhd and Essar Constructive Ltd, Petra Corp and Soft Systems Ltd, Petra Corp and Ruperal Enterprise Ltd as well as MCM.com Sdn Bhd and Blue Star Infotech Ltd.

Other agreements were between Mardec Bhd and RK Latex Pte Ltd, Binariang Satellite Systems Sdn Bhd and Antrix Corp. Ltd, Orion Jaya Industries Sdn Bhd and HMT (International) Ltd, Astronautic Technology (M) Sdn Bhd and Antrix Corp. Ltd.

Agreements were also signed between Asia Pacific Triumph Sdn Bhd and Saveetha Health Care Services Pte Ltd, Malaysia-India Business Council and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers (FMM) as well as CII and Asian Strategic and Leadership Institute (ASLI).

Another accord was between Juken Consultancy Sdn Bhd and Agensi

Pekerjaan KWX Sdn Bhd and Globsyn Technologies Ltd to establish a RM30 million TechnoCampus or IT training centre called Sutra (software universal training). -- BERNAMA

SHO SHY