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Samy-Tamil

STEERING COMMITTEE TO DEVELOP TAMIL-BASED COMPUTING

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 28 (Bernama) -- A Tamil Internet Steering Committee (TISC) and a permanent secretariat will be established to further develop Tamil-based computing and Internet in the country, MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said today.

He said this effort was in response to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's call on Sunday to make Malaysia a multi-lingual computing hub and a proposal to set up the Multi-Lingual Computing Initiative (MLCI).

"Among the Malaysian Indian community, it has decided that the TISC will be formed to represent the development of Tamil computing and Internet," he told reporters after closing a three-day Tamil Internet 2001 Conference and Exhibition at the Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC) here.

Samy, who is TISC pro tem committee chairman, said besides developing Tamil-based computing and Internet, the TISC would also play a leading role in promoting Information and Communications Technology (ICT) within the community.

Among the initial projects that have been identified by TISC are the creation of a National Online Repository for Tamil Content and establishment of a web resource centre for Tamil schools, he said.

Samy Vellu, who is Works Minister and organising chairman of the conference, said the organising committee had adopted a proposal to set up a Tamil Heritage Foundation to preserve ancient Tamil writings.

"One of the first projects of the foundation is to digitise ancient palm-leaf writings on medicine, science and others. Such writings are not protected now," he said.

He said the committee made its first donation of US\$10,000 (RM38,000) to the foundation.

Samy Vellu also said he would call for a meeting with Tamil school headmasters soon to explain the importance of cyberspace and their role to help make Indian students Internet savvy.

He said local Tamil CD-ROM would be produced for Tamil schools to convert the students into an Internet community and also encourage Indian businessmen to conduct e-business.

There are 90,000 students in 522 Tamil schools nationwide and about 20 schools already have Internet access.

The conference was attended by 750 delegates from 13 countries.

-- BERNAMA

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