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World-class ICT corporate leaders needed, says Murthy

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - Malaysia must enhance efforts to produce world-class corporate leaders in Information and Communications Technology if the Multimedia Super Corridor is to be successful and a world-class IT hub.

Newly-appointed MSC International Advisory Panel member Narayana N.R. Murthy said efforts should also be made, in terms of sales and marketing, to promote the MSC on a global scale.

"To ensure success, we need many (corporate) leaders in this field.

"The MSC must concentrate on developing this area," he told reporters after the opening of the MSC-Multimedia Asia Expo 2001.

The exhibition, at the Putra World Trade Centre here, was opened by Prime Minister and IAP chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

It is being held in conjunction with the fifth MSC IAP meeting in Cyberjaya from Sept 6-8.

Murthy, who is also IT giant Infosys Technologies Limited chairman and chief executive officer, said, as a first step, Malaysia must produce as many IT professionals as possible.

He said Malaysian companies had a lot of potential to be leaders in the international market.

They would, however, need to "come of age" to remain competitive and not be sidelined by other established international companies.

"What we have to do first is to promote our products and services on a larger scale ... the small and medium-scale enterprises must work harder towards this end."

Murthy projected a lot of success for the MSC based on its overall growth since its inception in 1996.

"We have seen the number of MSC status companies exceeding the projected target by two years."

He saw no truth in criticism that the MSC was not progressing as planned, saying:

"I believe the MSC can achieve its vision as Malaysia has everything needed to provide a conducive environment for investment.

"Physical infrastructure such as airports, roads, power supply, telecommunications and Internet access are definitely the best compared to other software producers from developing countries."

On his appointment to the IAP, Murthy said he was privileged and honoured to be part of the MSC which he described as a unique project.

"I have tremendous respect for what Dr Mahathir is doing.

"Malaysia has set an example for all developing countries and I feel privileged to be part of it."

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