

20 Silicon Valley CEOs visiting our MSC

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TWENTY chief executive officers (CEOs), who are members of The Indus Entrepreneurs (TIE) in the American Silicon Valley, will be in Malaysia for two days beginning Jan 22 to share their wealth of experience and explore the possibility of participating in the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC).

In the past ten years, their companies have generated RM800bil business in both software and hardware and been accorded hundreds of technology patents.

TIE Malaysia president Tan Sri G. Gnanalingam, who is also the West Port Bhd chairman, said their visit to Malaysia would be a big boost to the MSC development.

"As technology drivers in the Silicon Valley they can help Malaysian entrepreneurs understand the direction IT is headed in the new millennium," he said in an interview. "The TIE entrepreneurs will also help in fostering and accelerating the MSC flagship companies. Their visit will provide a networking platform for Malaysian IT firms to become global corporations."

During their visit they will also present papers at a conference on Jan 22 and conduct workshops at the Palace of the Golden Horses.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will meet with the TIE Silicon Valley delegation and launch the TIE Malaysian chapter.

"We are targeting 1,000 members and 50 charter members by the end of this year," Gnanalingam said.

The TIE, formed in 1992 by seven innovators and technologists in the Silicon Valley, has 39 chapters in eight countries with 800 experienced entrepreneurs guiding its 10,000 members.

"The idea was to meet regularly and frequently for the purpose of networking and expanding business opportunities in the IT sector," Gnanalingam said. "These initiatives have today produced tremendous wealth as well as high achievers."

The TIE Malaysian chapter will also launch a venture-capital fund with RM10mil and will increase it to RM100mil by the end of this year.