

05 SEP 2002
Mahathir-MSA
MSC-IAP MEETING GETS UNDERWAY IN CYBERJAYA

CYBERJAYA, Sept 5 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today chaired the sixth meeting of the International Advisory Panel for the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC-IAP) which will discuss various developments in the world of information and communication technology (ICT).

Twenty six participants comprising 14 IAP members and 12 representatives are attending the three-day gathering at the Cyberview Lodge here. There is also an observer.

They form a group of key players and international experts of global ICT industry who provide counsel to the government in developing the MSC.

Among the topics up for discussion at today's session are the role of IT companies in supporting the emerging economies towards narrowing the digital gap; cyber-crime and cyber-security; combating harmful internet content, post dot com entrepreneurship, open source systems and open source system.

The MSC is a 750sq km area running south from the Kuala Lumpur City Centre to the KL International Airport which has been designated as a hub for the development of multimedia products and services.

The 14 IAP members attending the meeting are the chairman and chief executive officer of Acer Group, Datuk Dr Stan Shih; managing director of Cutler & Company, Dr Terry Cutler; chairman and chief executive officer of Silicon Graphics Inc, Bob Bishop; a professor from Stanford University in the United States, William Miller.

Cyber Century Forum's senior adviser, Ambassador Diana Lady Dougan; senior partner of Sierra Ventures, Dr Gilbert Amelio; chairman of the board of Infosys Technologies Limited, N.R. Narayana Murthy; The Heritage Foundation president, Dr Edwin Feulner; chairman and president of Madge Networks Ltd, Robert Madge; chairman emeritus of NEC Corporation, Datuk Dr Tadahihiro Sekimoto.

The rest are chief researcher and director of science office at Sun Microsystems, Dr John Gage; executive vice-president of Ericsson Group, Ragnar Back; Siemen's vice-president and member of the management board, Anton Hendrik Schaaf; and executive vice-president of Oracle Corporation, Derek Williams.

Companies sending their representatives to the meeting are Microsoft, Motorola, Alcatel, Electronic Data Systems (HK) Ltd, BT Exact Technologies, DHL Systems, Dell Corporation, Intel Corporation, Fujitsu Limited, NTT Communications, IBM Singapore Pte Ltd and Bloomberg. The observer is from The Heritage Foundation.

The closed-door meeting was preceded by a photography session on the lawns of the Cyberview Lodge where Dr Mahathir was joined by panel members and representatives as well as International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz, Education Minister Tan Sri Musa Mohamad, Energy, Communications and Multimedia Minister Datuk Amar Leo Moggie and executive chairman of Multimedia Development Corporation Tan Sri Dr Othman Yeop Abdullah.

There are now 745 MSC-status companies. The number of local companies granted MSC status stands at 495 and the MSC has attracted 53 world class companies.

The sixth edition of the IAP meeting is held in conjunction with the "Malaysia ICT Week 2002".

The MSC project was initiated by Dr Mahathir as part of Malaysia's

long-term planning vision -- Vision 2020 -- to become a fully-developed nation and knowledge-rich society by the year 2020.

The first MSC-IAP meeting took place in Palo Alto, California in 1997 and subsequent meetings were held here.

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