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MSC-REGIONAL

MSC WELL ESTABLISHED, NO IMPACT FROM EMERGING IT PARKS

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ADELAIDE, Mac 1 (Bernama) - Emerging information technology (IT) parks around the region will not have an adverse impact on the development of Malaysia's Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) as it is well established, said Bob Bishop, the chairman and CEO of Silicon Graphics Inc, USA.

The other countries in and around Southeast Asian region does not have the resources to achieve what Malaysia has achieved with its MSC, he said when asked on the impact of IT parks in Batam, Bali and the Philippines on the growth of the MSC.

He said, over the past five years, the MSC has made good progress and now it could become a regional hub for the building of high-technology centres. "The MSC can also link multinational corporations (MNCs) to the small and medium enterprise of the region," he added.

"The MSC has 640 companies that are very successful. I don't think the MSCs expected such a large number of participants ahead of schedule," he told Bernama on the sidelines of the World Congress on IT 2002 here today.

Bishop is also a member of the MSC's international advisory panel.

He attributed the achievement of the MSC to the personal involvement of Malaysia's Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"Your Prime Minister should be proud of the great effort made during the time of uncertainty and political turmoil. He didn't blink: he maintained his focus and commitment."

Now that the financial crisis was over, the Prime Minister should see smooth sailing in the development of the MSC, he said, adding that everyone who had visited the MSC had been impressed and surprised at its achievement within such a short time.

On the future of the MSC, he said it was growing and it was getting better every year.

He suggested that the MSC should add more features such as a visual area network (VAN) and provide all the scientists and engineers with high-performance visualization.

Asked what kind of initiative that MSC should take to offset the bearish venture capital market he said it was difficult to say and had to be experimented as thje problem was unique to each country.

"You need to keep trying if you don't get the right formula from day one and it depends on the funds, taxation policy, and stock markets for the small companies that play a vital role in the success of venture capitalists in the MSC," he explained. -- BERNAMA

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