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MMU-SYMPOSIUM

COLLABORATION NEEDED TO DEVELOP R&D, SAYS MOGGIE

PETALING JAYA, Oct 2 (Bernama) -- Minister of Energy, Communications and Multimedia, Datuk Amar Leo Moggie said the country's vision 2020 was to see Malaysia become a fully developed country, not just economically but also in terms of knowledge and technology.

He said this after officiating the opening of Multimedia University's (MMU) International Symposium on Information and Communications Technologies 2003 or better known as M2USIC 2003 here today.

He commended the university for working hand-in-hand with international as well as local collaborative partners to organize this research-based symposium.

MMU is one of the key players in providing knowledge workers needed by the country, he said.

In the research and development (R&D) area, MMU has pursued collaborations with key local and foreign industry players like Microsoft, Sun, IBM, Nokia, Intel, Fujitsu, Alcatel, Cisco, Siemens, NTT and others.

He said the collaboration reflected the close cooperation that had been established between MMU and the industry.

Moggie reminded that it was the government's objective to promote R&D efforts in the country and it had allocated RM183.6 million for R&D in the 2004 Budget which was recently announced by Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is also the Finance Minister.

Moggie said the allocation was focussed on market driven R&D programmes aimed at commercializing research output and products.

Towards this end, he said, three new biotechnology research institutions will be built in Cyberjaya.

He said the government recognized the strong growth potential of the communications and multimedia industry.

He said, "Through the role and support of the private sector and institutions of higher learning such as MMU, we will continue to deepen Malaysia's presence in the industry as well as strengthen our pool of knowledge and skilled workers and expertise.

Meanwhile, chairman of M2USIC 2003, Chuah Hean Teik said the two-day symposium themed "The Advancement of ICT for a Secure Global Information Society," would provide an avenue for participants to share their knowledge on the latest technology, trend and research output in ICT.

Chuah said M2USIC was in keeping abreast on the latest development in technology and business opportunities in ICT.

The symposium has attracted more than 200 participants from various institutions and universities and a total of 47 technical papers would be presented. -- BERNAMA

SAK KTC