

11 JUL 2003

IAP-Meeting

DIGITAL DIVIDE AMONG KEY ISSUES AT IAP MEETING

KUALA LUMPUR, July 11 (Bernama) -- The issue of digital divide would feature prominently at the 7th Multimedia Super Corridor International Advisory Panel (IAP) meeting this September.

Multimedia Development Corporation (MDC) vice-president Kamil Othman said discussion of the issue was crucial to determining the future steps for realising the target of the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC).

"As we are now entering the next phase of MSC's development, we want to make sure that the problem of digital divide is addressed to bring ICT closer to the masses," he told reporters after the soft launch of the Malaysia ICT Week 2003 (MICTW) here today.

Energy, Communications and Multimedia Minister Datuk Amar Leo Moggie officiated at the soft launch and also the launch of the event logo at the ministry.

The IAP meeting, to be chaired by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, is scheduled to be held on Sept 4-6 at Cyberview Lodge Resort, Cyberjaya.

In conjunction with the IAP meeting, the ministry and several organisations will organise the MICTW from Sept 2-6 at the Malaysian International Exhibition and Convention Centre (MIECC), The Mines Resort City and Palace of the Golden Horses Hotel.

Other co-organisers of the event are the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC), MDC, National Economic Action Council (NEAC), AMB Exhibition Sdn Bhd, Asian Strategic Leadership Institute (ASLI) and Puspanita Kebangsaan.

Themed 'Connecting Society for Growth and Transformation', MICTW encompasses five major events, namely Mega Expos, ICT Excellence Award 2002/2003, Puspanita ICT Conference, MSC ICT Policy Summit and also IAP.

In his speech, Moggie urged Malaysians, especially small- and medium-scale technopreneurs and other ICT players, to use the event as a platform to enhance their networking and to explore new opportunities.

The presence of world-class companies in the exhibition would provide excellent opportunities for such networking, he said.

The events are expected to attract more than 500 exhibitors and 16,000 visitors comprising government officials, trade visitors, students, IAP delegates and the public.

MICTW aims to promote ICT as a catalyst for growth, leveraging ICT as a tool for creating an informed Malaysian society, positioning Malaysia as a regional and global hub for ICT and multimedia development as well as promoting greater ICT awareness among Malaysians.

Further information on the events can be accessed at www.acm.expo.com.

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