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IAP-MSC

TRIBUTE TO MAHATHIR FOR BRINGING IT HEADS TOGETHER, SAYS GAGE

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 5 (Bernama) - Sun Microsystems chief researcher and science director, Dr John Gage paid tribute to Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for his vision and ability to bring so many heads of the Information Technology (IT) industry together to progress the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC).

"I think all of us can say that years of dreaming have turned into something real. Why do we all keep coming to the meeting? It is very difficult to get top business executives to go to meetings," Dr Gage said at the press conference after the final meeting of the seventh MSC International Advisory Panel Meeting (MSC-IAP) here today.

"But there has been no other chief executive (Dr Mahathir) that has brought us all together like this and for so many times. We have learnt from Malaysia and have concrete examples and stories to share with other countries," he said.

Meanwhile, Oracle Corporation's executive vice president for its Asia Pacific Division, Professor Derek Williams said the development and sale of world class software would be an important indicator of the MSC's success.

"Software exports are very important. You must see world-class softwares coming out of the MSC and going into the international market and the money returning to Malaysia," he said.

He said Oracle was working with local software companies, one of which had successfully developed an airport management system that had been sold to 12 airports around the world, including in the United States.

Another IAP member, Acer Group's chairman and chief executive officer, Datuk Dr Stan Shih said that Malaysia which had established itself in manufacturing, had now to develop value-added services to stay competitive.

"Manufacturing is a necessary foundation of economic development but in the future you need more value added services," he added.

He said with the possible exception of China, Asia's next growth engine will be the service industry, especially the technology-based service industry.

Chairman's Satyam Computer Services Ltd, Ramalinga Raju said, "Sixty-five percent of the world economy was based on services and congratulated Malaysia for its foresight in planning the MSC to compete in this sector."

He said that technology had also enabled most services to be delivered virtually around the world, turning service providers into global players.

"That Prime Minister Dr Mahathir should have visualised this many years ago and that you now have good software and physical infrastructure and a clear understanding of what you can achieve....this is incredible," Ramalinga said.

He said MSC was well placed and should go down in history as a calculated visionary project," Ramalinga said. -- BERNAMA

MAS KTC