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### Sampling the wonders of telecommunications

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - When Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was on the phone speaking to Ericsson executives in Sweden today, he could see their faces on a video screen and later even "received" a photograph they had taken earlier on-screen.

It was basically a demonstration showing a high-tech "EDGE to WCDMA" call, where the picture they sent to him was passed from a WCDMA-enabled phone in Sweden, through an international gateway, and then to a similar EDGE-enabled phone held by Dr Mahathir at Ericsson@MSC, Cyberjaya.

This is opposed to e-mailing a picture through a land line, as this technology is wireless and very much faster.

The call is running on two 3G (3rd Generation) mobile systems, with EDGE (Enhanced Data Rates for Global Evolution) being an enhanced version of GPRS (General Packet Radio Service) and WCDMA (Wideband Code Division Multiple Access) being a technology 10 times faster than EDGE.