

Global firms welcome

The Star - 18/5/2007

Malaysia wants more multinationals to open regional offices in the country

PUTRAJAYA: Malaysia wants more recognised global multinational companies to set up their regional offices in the country.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak expressed confidence that more such companies would look to Malaysia, as the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) project had achieved many milestones, from attracting investments to creating high-value jobs.

He said there were more than 100 leading global companies and hoped they would follow in the footsteps of computer maker Dell, Satyam and international news agency Al-Jazeera.

"Early this year, companies such as Dell and Satyam opened their global delivery centres here, while Al-Jazeera selected Kuala Lumpur as one of its regional broadcast centres.

"An increasing number of companies are looking at the MSC as a regional or global base for such services, and their presence would add to the MSC's lustre as a host for international shared services and outsourcing facilities," he said during his welcoming remarks at the 10th MSC Malaysia-International Advisory Panel (IAP) Meeting here yesterday.

The two-day event was attended by 25 IAP global representatives, Cabinet ministers and state Mentris Besar.

Najib also welcomed two new IAP members, Shinichiro Ishikiawa from Gonzo Digimation Holding and Mahmoud Bounieb from the Al-Jazeera Children's Channel.

Najib said the MSC was aimed at attracting high-tech companies



Nice work: Abdullah admiring sketches for the animation *Saladin* during the 10th MSC Malaysia-International Advisory Panel Meeting at Putrajaya yesterday. With him are Najib and Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Datuk Seri Jamaluddin Jarjis.

using or developing multimedia technologies to accelerate Malaysia's progress toward information-age leadership.

He added that the project took advantage of Malaysia's location in the heart of Asia's fastest growing markets.

"I am confident that our concerted

effort in MSC Malaysia will contribute significantly to the country's economy, reaching exponential growth in value that comes with connecting more people to the global network as well as spearheading the formation of a national ICT agenda," he said.

Najib said they looked forward to

the exchange of views during the discussion on the topic "MSC Malaysia Strategy Review: Enhancing Knowledge Infrastructure."

Recommendations would be forwarded for discussion in the main meeting today to be chaired by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, he said.