

IAP to play bigger role

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Members may sit on councils of GLCs, varsities to advise on ICT

PUTRAJAYA: International Advisory Panel (IAP) members will play a bigger role in the country's ICT development and be invited to sit in the councils of government-linked companies and universities.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said the 28 IAP members had indicated to him their willingness to be more active, and not only during the annual meetings each year.

He said these foreign experts could even be appointed to the board of directors of companies for their expert input or act as attachment professors at universities.

"They want to be active for the

next 11 months and they are ready to provide support in terms of offering their services. When we are preparing our papers to implement the recommendations that have been made, we will seek their views and comments on our plans.

"This way, it will help us ensure the quality of our implementation, and we can be assured of success because we have taken care of the planning part of it," he said at the press conference after the 10th MSC-IAP Meeting at the Putrajaya International Convention Centre here yesterday.

To a question on when these IAP members could expect to take up

their new roles, Abdullah said there was no target and that it was up to the respective companies to decide when they want foreign or independent directors to serve in their firms.

"If they want someone with expertise, the IAP members can be helpful. It is a matter for them to decide. We are not preventing anyone from doing that," he said. During the discussions earlier, Abdullah said the Malaysian Government had reiterated its commitment to implementing the various recommendations made by the IAP members to bring the country onto the global ICT stage.

He said they had informed him that this year's meeting was perhaps

the best so far in the 10 years of the MSC's establishment.

Other issues discussed included human capital development, public and private sector collaboration (particularly involving universities), training for knowledge workers, carving niches in which Malaysia could excel, building markets for Malaysian products and firms, and broadband infrastructure.

Abdullah also said training for knowledge workers should be emphasised at secondary school level and that the Government would engage the private sector for recommendations to draw up a curriculum.