

More to benefit from high-speed Internet connections

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KUALA LUMPUR: Satellite technology could soon bring high-speed Internet connections to more Malaysians, said Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

Using small antennas mounted on buildings, satellites could provide homes and businesses with broad-

band services, helping Malaysia meet its Ninth Malaysia Plan target.

Malaysia wants to see a six-fold rise in the number of broadband subscribers, to 3.73 million by 2010, from roughly 500,000 last year.

Najib was speaking here yesterday at the telecast launch of Measat-3,

owned by Malaysia's sole commercial satellite operator, Measat Satellite Systems Sdn Bhd.

The launch took place at the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan at 5.28am (7.28am in Malaysia).

Najib said the launch was a signifi-

cant effort to extend Malaysia's communications reach, and was more than just a private venture.

"It carries with it into space the aspirations of an entire nation. I believe that the launch of Measat-3 and Malaysia's latest and most advanced communications satellite, will serve

as a catalyst for the second wave of Malaysia's technology revolution."

After the launch, 22-year-old Ng Jin Aun received a full scholarship from Measat for a master's degree course in Space Studies at the International Space University in Strasbourg, France.