

**Malaysia Urges Global Community To Be More Resilient In Combating Cyber Crimes**  
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**From Voon Miaw Ping**

ST PETERSBURG (Russia), Aug 7 (Bernama) -- Malaysia today called on the global community to be more resilient and forge ahead with positive law enforcement programmes to combat crimes in cyberspace.

Information, Communications and Culture Minister Datuk Seri Dr Rais Yatim said the collective ICT law enforcement among the global community ought to run parallel to their respective endeavours in the matter.

He said that while the Internet had brought benefits and growth for the people, it was not without its negative impacts.

"Much as we value freedom in the cyber world, more and more of crime related matters are seen to be on the increase via the Net worldwide.

"What is also in dire need is the establishment of effective approach and mechanisms to effect rule and law within the Internet regime. What is illegal outside the Internet, also should be regarded as illegal within the environment of the ICT," Rais said when addressing delegates at the Apec 9th Telecommunications and Information Technology Ministerial Meeting (Telmin-9) here, Tuesday.

He said educational and social guidance should be regarded as vital.

The two-day meeting was opened by Russian Communications and Mass Media Minister Nikolai Nikiforov.

Rais, in his speech on Enhancing Socio-Economic Activities through the Use of ICT , said communications and ICT have become the primary enabler in enhancing socio-economic growth in Malaysia, especially since the last decade.

"Communications and ICT have connected us to the mainstream of global development and today are the catalyst for growth in almost all sectors of our economy, as evidenced by the industry s revenue of approximately RM48.8 billion (US\$16.3 billion) in 2011, he said.

He added that the growing importance of the sector was also recognised when Communications, Content and Infrastructure (CCI) had been identified as one of the 12 National Key Economic Areas (NKEA) under the Economic Transformation Programme (ETP).

CCI NKEA targets to generate RM57.7 billion (US\$19.3 billion) through various entry point projects to the GNI by year 2020, and to hit the target, Rais said, the Malaysian government would increase efforts to provide new and compelling content and services to stimulate demand and enable other sectors.

He said that to support the increased demand, investments would be channelled in applications and content development as well as infrastructure build-up with specific focus on quality and speed.

"Key sectors of the economy will be fully CCI-enabled. In the process, we will create an additional 43,162 jobs with more than 75 per cent being high skilled," he added.

On the sector of social development, the minister said the National Broadband Initiative (NBI) spearheaded by the government in 2008 had allowed more people access to the Internet and resulted in the improvement to the quality of life of the people.

"We are now witnessing the economic transformation in rural communities who have embraced ICT to better their socio-economic status," he said.

Broadband household penetration had reached 63.8 per cent as of July 18, from the initial target of 50 per cent in 2010, he added.

He said projects which have been instrumental in this economic transformation include the distribution of the one million broadband-enabled 1Malaysia netbooks to underprivileged students and low-income households.

Almost 683,000 of the one million netbooks have been distributed to students and rural communities throughout the country so far, while an additional 500,000 units are expected to be provided in the future, he said.

Rais said the establishment of the 471 1Malaysia Internet Centres, which comprised Community Broadband Centres (CBC) and Community Broadband Libraries (CBL), also

contributed significantly to the transformation of the lives of Malaysians and opened doors for them to seek commercial ventures overseas.

Apart from that, he said, the government also continuously worked with industry stakeholders to promote greater adoption of ICT and broadband services among the people.

One such programme, he pointed out, was the strategic collaboration between the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC) and Intel to promote digital literacy to the people through the Intel Easy Steps Programme.

The programme is being offered at all the Community Broadband Centres and, as of June this year, more than 46,000 users had completed the curriculum.

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