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LAUNCHING NEW VISTAS

National IT Council meeting announces new ICT endeavors by Erna Mahyuni

This year's National Information Technology Council Meeting (NITC) set the stage for a flurry of announcements involving endeavors old and new. Discussions were held on efforts by government agencies dealing with ICT in the country - the Multimedia Development Corporation (MDeC), MIMOS Berhad

(MIMOS) and Cybersecurity. Also discussed was the upcoming World Congress in IT (WCIT) that will be held in Kuala Lumpur come 2008.



"As one of the thrusts of the national mission outlined under the Ninth Malaysia Plan, ICT plays a crucial role in helping to move Malaysia's economy up the value chain. The Government plans to leverage on ICT to

modernise existing industries and create new sources of wealth and generate a skilled workforce," said Abdullah.

The closed door meeting discussed ICT issues as well as the directions for ICT security and sovereignty, smart schools, bridging the digital divide as well as the upcoming World IT Week 2008 (WIW).

The WIW is a combination of ICT events that will include the annual International Advisory Panel (IAP), WCIT, Global Alliance for ICT and Development Forum (GAID) and the Asean ICT Ministerial Meeting. All these events will draw professionals from all over the world to our capital during WIW which is set to happen from the 17-22 May, 2008.

Chairman of the NCIT meeting YB Dato' Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Prime Minister of Malaysia also launched MIMOS's KnowledgeGRID Malaysia, the upcoming Malaysia Animation Creative Content Centre (MAC), the e-Content Fund Award, the exchange of partnership agreement with

WCIT 2008 as well as Cybersecurity Malaysia. MIMOS's KnowledgeGRID Malaysia is aimed at providing a national infrastructure to maximise high performance computing resources, to accelerate research and industrial development. "The grid will be the next Knowledge Infrastructure for the nation that will increase Malaysia's competitiveness in technology advancement regionally and globally," said MIMOS President and Chief Executive Officer, Dato' Abdul Wahab Abdullah.

The MAC endeavor was actually announced as a concept by the Deputy Prime Minister Dato' Sri Najib Tun Razak last April after a visit to the Seoul Animation Centre last March. MDeC's chief executive officer Badlisham Ghazali said MAC was an exciting development under the MSC Malaysia brand. He cited Malaysia's unique melting pot of cultures as a keen advantage that gave the local content developers a competitive edge over their counterparts in the region. Though there was a lot of untapped creativity and talent, Badlisham said there was still a lack of local content, something that MAC and similar endeavors were trying to remedy. The e-Content Fund Award would assist in that by providing financial assistance to both individuals or companies, the fund having a total of RM\$150 million at its disposal.

CyberSecurity Malaysia, however, was an exercise in rebranding. Formerly known as the National ICT Security and Emergency Response Centre or NISER, CyberSecurity Malaysia aims to continue the agency's purpose to address computer security issues amongst Malaysian internet users. "Initially our role was mainly limited to technical areas but this has since expanded to include educational, promotional, remedial as well as preventative strategies such as policy research and supporting law enforcement in cyber forensics," said CyberSecurity Malaysia's Acting CEO Husin Jazri.

