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# PM chairs meeting on ICT development

**CYBERJAYA:** Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi on Monday chaired the National Information Technology Council (NITC) meeting to review the information communication technology (ICT) sector's progress and deliberate on strategic recommendations that will enable Malaysia to compete more effectively in the ever challenging global environment.

The meeting focused its discussions on efforts by various government agencies involved in ICT development - including the Multimedia Development Corporation (MDeC), MIMOS Bhd and Cybersecurity - as well as the staging of the World Congress in Information Technology (WCIT) which Malaysia is hosting next year.

The closed-door meeting also deliberated on measures to sustain Malaysia's competitive advantage in the key areas of shared-services and outsourcing, creative digital content and animation, as well as flagship applications.

Also on the agenda were the new direction for Smart Schools, ICT security and sovereignty issues, ways to continue bridging the digital divide as well as the World IT Week 2008 (WIW) on May 17-22.

WIW events will include the annual international advisory panel meeting of the Multimedia Super Corridor, WCIT, the Global Alliance for ITC and Development Forum and the Asean ICT ministerial meeting.

A statement released in conjunction with the meeting noted that as one of the thrusts of the National Mission outlined in the Ninth Malaysia Plan (9MP), ICT plays a crucial role in helping Malaysia's economy move up the value chain.

It said the Government plans to leverage on ICT to modernise existing industries and create new sources of wealth as well as generate a skilled work force.

The NITC's discussions, according to it, centred on ensuring the continued success of ICT development and its contribution towards making Malaysia an attractive destination for ICT-based investments via a strategic roadmap.

On the sidelines of the meeting, Abdullah witnessed the launch of the grid computation initiative by Mimos called "KnowledgeGrid, The Evolution of NISER Brand into Cybersecurity", the signing of memorandums of understanding between MDeC and WCIT sponsors cum partners, as well as the launch of Malaysia's animation creative content centre.— Bernama