

## Message from Editor-In-Chief Dr Abu Talib Bachik



# Meeting of Great Minds

### *"Out with the Old, In with the New."*

This phrase is always used whenever a new leader is at the helm, implying that the new leadership will bring in a different style with a different priority and agenda.

The same phrase could also be at the back of the mind of all those attending the eighth Multimedia Super Corridor-International Advisory Panel meeting last September. Clearly, everyone was interested in what the new Malaysian Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, would do to the MSC project. This was the first IAP meeting that he chaired.

Thus, the attendance to the 8th MSC-IAP was good. A total of 15 members and 18 representatives came and at the end of the two-day main round of discussions, everyone was bowled over by the charms of the new man in charge.

The attendees warmed up to him as he laid out his vision for the MSC, now focusing on two main areas:

1. Developing products and services relevant to the people, and
2. Catapulting local MSC companies into the global arena.

His opening remarks that ICT should not be elitist but should touch the lives of every individual, tug a chord in the heart of everyone.

And so it was in this warm atmosphere that the meeting convened.

At the same time, the meeting also adopted a new format comprising break-out sessions where members and various government officials interacted in eight small groups. The topics of discussion were: ICT for All – ICT Being an Enabler to the Economy, Innovation – Increasing Malaysia's Intellectual Property, Outsourcing to Malaysia – Promoting Malaysia to the World, Biotechnology and Life Sciences – Convergence of ICT and Biotech, and, Software, Internet and Security.

As a result, there was better interaction among IAP members and executives of MSC-status companies. This augurs well for the local technopreneurs as now panel members are getting more involved and had even volunteered to become advisors to those aspiring to go global.

There is now talk of perhaps increasing the number of IAP members.

Is this good for the MSC?

As the project enters The Next Leap (2004-2010), there is now an urgent need to develop other ICT corridors in Malaysia, link them and other cybercities around the world to the MSC. To achieve this goal, input from a bigger pool of great thinkers would be of greater benefit. Thus, an expanded panel would serve a better purpose.

