

For Immediate Release

Malaysia to host World Congress on Information Technology (WCIT) in 2020

MDeC and PIKOM to co-organise the “Olympics of the ICT industry” for the second time

PUTRAJAYA, OCTOBER 23, 2014 - The Multimedia Development Corporation (MDeC) today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Association of the Computer and Multimedia Industry of Malaysia (PIKOM) to jointly host the prestigious 22nd World Congress on Information Technology (WCIT) here in year 2020. The signing ceremony was held at the sidelines of the 26th MSC Malaysia Implementation Council Meeting (ICM) witnessed by Dato’ Sri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak, Prime Minister of Malaysia.

The selection of the host was announced recently at the WCIT 2014 which was held in Guadalajara, Mexico from 29th of September to 1st of October 2014. This will be the second time Malaysia has been given the honour to host the WCIT, after successfully hosting the 16th series in 2008 in Kuala Lumpur.

Dato’ Yasmin Mahmood, CEO of MDeC said, “We are honoured to once again host the WCIT in 2020 with PIKOM. This is a testament to MSC Malaysia’s long term vision and strategy to not only raise the bar in the local ICT industry but also reinforce our mission to realise Malaysia as a global hub for ICT. The WCIT 2020 will undoubtedly make Malaysia the world’s focal point for dialogue, policy action and entrepreneurship on global developments related to the ICT industry and digital economy.”

WCIT 2014 also saw TM Research & Development Sdn Bhd, an MSC Malaysia company; bag the highest award of the night, the Chairman’s Award. This marked the first time Malaysia has emerged the winner of this prestigious award. Two other MSC Malaysia companies, MDT Innovations Sdn Bhd and Softspace Sdn Bhd also won the merit award at the WCIT 2014.

Mr. Cheah Kok Hoong, Chairman of PIKOM said, “This is indeed a proud moment for Malaysia - not only winning three awards in this internationally coveted competition but to also be given the privilege to play host in 2020. This augurs very well for the future of the Malaysian ICT industry and I encourage the industry players to build on this success and become globally competitive ICT companies”.

WCIT is the flagship event of the World Information Technology and Services Alliance (WITSA), a consortium of over 80 international ICT organisations whose members comprise more than 90% of the global ICT market. The WCIT 2008 hosted by Malaysia attracted over 3,300 delegates from over 92 countries and attracted more than 42,000 visitors to the expo which was held during the conference.

The host for the biennial conference are selected on a rotational basis and usually revolves around the Asia Pacific, Europe and North American countries. The first WCIT was held in Barcelona, Spain in 1978 and Brasilia, Brazil has been selected as the host for the 20th WCIT in

2016.

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About Multimedia Development Corporation (MDeC), MSC Malaysia and Digital Malaysia

MDeC was incorporated in 1996 to strategically advise the Malaysian Government on legislation, policies and standards for ICT and multimedia operations as well as to oversee the development of the Malaysian Multimedia Super Corridor (now MSC Malaysia). MSC Malaysia became the platform to nurture the growth of Malaysian companies in the IT industry whilst attracting participation from global ICT companies to invest and develop cutting-edge digital and creative solutions in Malaysia.

In 2011, MDeC's mandate was broadened by the Prime Minister to include driving Malaysia's transition towards a developed digital economy by 2020 through Digital Malaysia. Founded on three strategic thrusts, Digital Malaysia is a natural progression to harness the building blocks already laid by MSC Malaysia. Digital Malaysia will drive generational change through its three-phase implementation which is set to take place between 2012 to 2020, 2021 to 2030, and 2031 to 2040 respectively.

The Digital Malaysia 354 (DM354) roadmap was introduced in 2013 as a structured approach to game-change Malaysia's digital landscape in Phase 1 by addressing 3 key ICT Enabling Environment Focus Areas, growing 5 ICT sub-sectors, which will eventually benefit 4 initial Digital Malaysia Communities (Digital Entrepreneur, Bottom 40 (Bottom 40% of the income pyramid), Youth & SMEs).

For more information, please visit www.mdec.my, www.mscomalaysia.my and www.digitalmalaysia.my