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ERNST & YOUNG TO ESTABLISH A NEW REGIONAL TECHNOLOGY CENTRE IN MSC

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 5 (Bernama) -- Accounting firm, Ernst & Young, which plans to expand operations in the emerging markets such as Vietnam and China, is establishing a regional centre for technology enablement and educational training in the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC).

Its executive chairman Ali Tan Sri Abdul Kadir said the company is negotiating with the Multimedia Development Corporation (MDC), which is the government-appointed body to coordinate the planning, development and promotion of the MSC, to qualify as a player and to determine its exact role that it could play in the MSC.

"Initially, we will invest between US\$500,000 and US\$1 million (RM1.26 million to RM2.52 million) in the centre will be located at our office in Kompleks Antarabangsa and later at the Technology Park in Bangi, Selangor or at its vicinity," he told a press conference here today.

The MSC, which was initiated by the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, would encompass 15 km by 50 km area including the Kuala Lumpur City Centre here, the new government administrative area of Putrajaya and the Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Sepang, Selangor.

So far, Ernst & Young has three regional centres namely in Europe, the United States and Australia to support the company's information infrastructure, he said.

Meanwhile, its executive director, Halim Haji Din, which headed the consultation arm said the centre, is expected to be operational by first or second quarter of 1997.

The centre would be linked internationally to Ernst & Young's existing centres in the US and Europe as well as would provide access to technology advice and global experience, he said.

Earlier, its International chairman, Micheal A. Henning said with the establishment of the centre, Ernst & Young Malaysia which was established since 1909, would help to maintain the company's leadership in the world.

For the financial year ending Sept 30, 1996, Ernst & Young International registered a worldwide revenue of US\$7.8 billion (RM19.656 billion), an increase of 13 percent from last year's US\$6.8 billion (RM17.136 billion), he said.

Of the total revenue, Asia Pacific contributed only 12 percent, while North America and Europe contributed 44 percent each respectively, he added.

Henning also said the company forecast Asia Pacific region's contribution to increase by US\$100 million (RM252 million) in few years and register a double growth within two years.

"It will also enable Malaysian and multinational clients of the firms to gain a firsthand experience with technologies associated with Internet, a public network; Intranet, an internal network to link the companies internationally and extranet, a network to link the company and its client," he said.

The centre would provide emerging technologies like imaging electronic commerce, multimedia communications and electronic publishing and access to emerging information technologies and associated resources, he added. --

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