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KAWASAKI KEEN TO COLLABORATE WITH M'SIA IN HEAVY INDUSTRIES

By: M. Jegathesan

GURUN, June 26 (Bernama) -- Kawasaki Heavy Industries, a total manufacturing company, is keen to cooperate with Malaysia in hi-tech industries to propel this country into the league of developed nations.

Takeshi Goto, seconded from Kawasaki to Motorsikal dan Enjin Nasional Sdn Bhd (Modenas) as a factory manager said: "Kawasaki president Ohba Hiroshi is impressed with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's vision to turn Malaysia into an industrialised country.

"He (Ohba) has promised Dr Mahathir to transfer Kawasaki's technical know-how to Malaysian companies," he told Bernama, here today.

Japan-based Kawasaki is worldwide leader in engine production, steel, shipbuilding, aviation and production of energy-related equipment.

In 1995, Kawasaki, Diversified Resources Bhd and Nisho-Iwai Corporation signed a memorandum of understanding to initiate development of Malaysia's first motorcycle.

The RM300 million national motorcycle project will initially produce 100,000 units a year with a target of 350,000 units a year in about three to five years on export-driven demand in developing countries.

"We are very happy to participate in this joint-venture since it will give Kawasaki an opportunity to transfer its manufacturing, production and management know-how in the manufacturing sector," Takeshi said.

He said that while the manufacturing skills of the Modenas production operators have yet to be seen, the local management team is led by competent people.

Before a country becomes a member of the industrialised nations, it must first be able to compete effectively in the international marketplace, he said, adding that Kawasaki will assist Malaysia in this direction.

Takeshi said Malaysia's salient features such as political stability, a development-oriented leadership and a hardworking population are key points which attracted Kawasaki to invest in the country.

"Naturally, Kawasaki will want to expand its operations in Malaysia," he added. -- BERNAMA

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