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LUMUT PORT TO BE CENTRE FOR MAJOR STONE INDUSTRY IN ASEAN

IPOH, Sept 17 (Bernama) -- Lumut Port Industrial Park (LPIP) will be a major stone industry centre for the Asean region with the RM832 million investment in stone processing by 34 Taiwanese, Lumut Maritime Terminal (LMT) Sdn Bhd Director, Harun Halim Rasip said today.

He said the Taiwanese is the second biggest investor in the 400 hectare industrial park which was officially opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in July last year.

The Taiwanese factories would be set up in an area covering 45.2 hectare which would be named Stone Industrial Park, he told reporters after signing an agreement to set up the park with Taiwan Marble Association (TMA) which was represented by its president, Chiau Yih Sou here, today.

He said the Stone Industrial Park would be modelled on the Mei Lwen Park in Hwa Lien, Taiwan and would include several cost-saving common-use facilities that would make it "unique in Asean."

The Stone Industry Park works along the "cluster concept," covering the import and local sourcing of rough stone, processing, designing and decorative processing, polishing, together with the requisite supporting industries, Harun said.

"The spin-off significance of the stone industry park will be seen in the consequential increase in investment in terms of money and technology into Perak's quarries in order to meet the demand for quality stone material," he added.

He said LMT felt that the Taiwanese, which is second after Italy in the stone industry, should take advantage of the natural resources, such as limestones and granite in Perak, while the existing port facilities in Lumut could cater for the export markets.

Harun said LMT, the owner and developer of Lumut Port and Lumut Port Industrial Park, would handle the stone material imported in block from international sources and stone products exported in containers.

Meanwhile, Taiwan Longshine International Chairman, Micheal C.Y. Tseng said the association was also looking for opportunities to sell their products and undertake a joint venture stone processing activity in stone processing equipment as well as in the supplier and quarrying sector.

He said besides stone industry, Longshine, a Taiwan-based investment promotion company, is also looking into the possibility to bring in two other industries into Malaysia, namely moulds and dies and scientific-based park.

"Moulds and dies are critical and vital industries to a nation's industrial development as most industries will be crippled without proper moulds and dies manufacturing," Tseng said.

He said Longshine was negotiating with 180 high tech companies that had set up industries at the famous Hsin Chu scientific-based Park in Taiwan for the establishment of a similar park in Malaysia.

Tseng also said that Longshine would present a proposal regarding the transfer of high technology to the Malaysian government before the end of the year. -- BERNAMA

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