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SIEMENS KEEN TO PARTICIPATE IN TRANS ASIA RAILWAY PROJECT

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 8 (Bernama) -- A senior official of Siemens Group Germany says Siemens is keen to participate in the 498-km trans Asia railway project mooted by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"We have studied the proposed project which is expected to run into billions of ringgit linking Singapore to Kunming in Southern China," Christian Urbanke, Siemens Electrical Engineering Sdn Bhd managing director said here today.

The rail link proposed by Malaysia is part of the Mekong Basin Sub-region Development Programme, an Asean project agreed to at the fifth Asean Summit in Bangkok in December 1995.

The estimated RM2.25 billion project, based on an estimated cost of US\$2 million per km (RM5 million), will be funded by the Asian Development Bank, World Bank, Japan and the European Union.

Urbanke attended the signing of the joint venture agreement for the setting up of a joint venture company between KTM Bhd and Siemens Integra Transportation Systems AG of Switzerland to manufacture railway signalling and communications equipment in Malaysia.

Urbanke said the company could contribute towards the realisation of the project through a number of ways like providing ideas and acting as system leaders for the signalling and communications equipment.

Siemens Integra chief executive officer Josef Leimgruber also expressed the company's interest in the rail project. -- BERNAMA

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