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GMI embarks on project to promote use of solar energy

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - The German-Malaysian Institute has embarked on a project to promote the use of solar energy through its new training programme.

With the help of two German lecturers from Robert Bosch College in Ulm, Germany, G. Karrer and J. Oesterle, GMI has set-up a laboratory that will allow its students to better understand the techniques and technology available to harness solar energy.

GMI's acting managing director, Dr Abdul Hakim Juri said this after a tour of the new facility at the institute.

He said with the help of photovoltaic, which is the direct transfer of the sun's energy to electrical energy, numerous energy problems could be solved.

"The photovoltaic market is fast expanding and it is also generating much interest in the country.

"In order to harness solar energy, students must be trained on the technologies to process the energy.

"Realising this importance, the GMI will enable students to learn more about photovoltaic and ways to harness solar energy with the completion of the photovoltaic laboratory which costs about RM50,000.

"Students majoring in industrial electronics could have hands-on experience with the system," he added.

Abdul Halim said the two experts were specially employed to install and demonstrate the system which comprises four different modules namely for alternate current and direct current.

Karrer explained that this solar technology could be used for small houses or chalets and would cost about RM20,000 for its complete installation.

He said that in Ulm, 13 schools had operated their labs with the help of solar energy for the past two years.

"This is the first time this technology has been used outside Germany, and Malaysia will surely move ahead in this field with the partnership,

"We have also brought the first solar powered bicycle which is strictly for exhibition purposes.

"It is the second in the world, the other is in Ulm. The bicycle moves when it gets solar energy from the module placed above it," he said.

GMI, a joint venture between the governments of Malaysia and Germany, is a centre for training highly skilled manpower in production technology and industrial electronics initiated by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad after his visit to Germany.

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