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KONSORTIUM PERKAPALAN TO INVEST RM100 MLN IN IT IN NEXT THREE YEARS

KUALA LUMPUR, June 18 (Bernama) -- Konsortium Perkapalan Bhd plans to invest RM100 million in information technology (IT) in the next three years in efforts to enhance its competitive advantage in the Asia Pacific region.

Group executive chairman, Mirzan Mahathir said the company needed better IT system as its strength lies in the effectiveness of its distribution network.

"In this regard, we are continuously looking at new and innovative methods to add-value and further personalise the services we offer," he said.

Mirzan was speaking to reporters after signing a RM4.5-million contract with SAP Malaysia Sdn Bhd for the SAP R/3 client/server business application system, here, today.

The purchase of the system makes it one of Konsortium's largest investment in IT to-date.

"This will be the setting-up of the first fully integrated logistics IT system in the country," Mirzan said.

Under the contract, SAP Malaysia will supply Konsortium Perkapalan with the whole range of modules of the SAP R/3 suite including financials, material management, sales and distribution, plant maintenance and human resources. The software will run on IBM hardware.

The project implementation, which is currently being formulated, will encompass the entire group comprising 25 companies.

The system will increase the company's responsiveness to the market and reduce order processing time which leads to a higher level of customer service and satisfaction.

To realise its vision to be one of the leading logistics services providers in the Asia Pacific region, Mirzan said Konsortium Perkapalan is now looking at the Western Pacific countries where there are huge potentials.

The company has ventured abroad to countries like Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines, China and India to tap the growing logistics market in this region.

SAP Malaysia Sdn Bhd is a software vendor and the leading global provider of client/server applications.

Based in Walldorf, Germany, it had a revenue of DM3.72 billion (RM6.14 billion) in 1996. It has more than 40 subsidiaries around the world with SAP Asia headquartered in Singapore. -- BERNAMA

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