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## Konsortium Perkapalan to spend RM100m on IT systems

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KONSORTIUM Perkapalan Bhd has allocated some RM100 million until the year 2000 in an effort to beef up its information technology (IT) systems to better serve customer needs.

The future of the organisation is dependent on the implementation of IT so as to compete effectively in the global market place, said group executive chairman Mirzan Mahathir yesterday.

The company is currently in the process of identifying on how best to implement the IT programme and which part of the logistics chain will be involved first. It is then to be extended to cover the whole group.

One of the integrated systems which KPB is to have is the ability to let the customer know, at a touch of a button, the exact location of the consignment on real-time basis.

Previously, communication between the various logistic chain such as the trucking and warehousing were done in an manual manner and hence not so effective, he said.

Mirzan was speaking to reporters after the official signing ceremony between the company and SAP Malaysia Sdn Bhd to set up the first fully integrated logistics IT system in the country. SAP is involved in client/server enterprise application software, providing solutions for companies and industry sectors.

The agreement, at RM4.5 million and one of KPB's largest investments in IT, is for the purchase of the SAP client/server business application. SAP will supply KPB with a whole range of modules, including financial and materials management, sales and distribution, fleet and plant maintenance and human resources.

Mirzan also said that in a bid to be one of the leading logistics services providers in the Asia Pacific region, KPB is looking at countries on the Western Pacific and Indian Ocean rim.

The group's entry into these countries will depend on the conditions at the ground level and also the opportunities available, Mirzan said. Operations have already started in the Philippines, Indonesia, India and China, with a new logistics facility currently being constructed in Thailand. On a more short-term basis, he said that India presented a lot of potential together with nations in Asean, as trade within Asean was growing much faster than as compared to trade within Asia.

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