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TRI TO PROVIDE MOBILE TELECOM SERVICES IN IRAN

By: Ahmad Zukiman Zain

TEHRAN, Dec 11 (Bernama) -- Technology Resources Industries Bhd (TRI) has stretched its international presence by signing an agreement here Wednesday to form a joint-venture company to provide mobile telecommunication services in Esfahan.

The tie-up with Telecommunication Company of Esfahan (TCE) was witnessed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Iran's first vice president, Dr Hassan Ibrahim Habibi.

TRI will hold 49 percent and TCE, a subsidiary company of the Telecommunications Company of Iran, the remaining 51 percent of the equity.

The company, yet to be named, was expected to launch its services early next year.

TRI chairman and chief executive Tan Sri Tajuddin Ramli said the joint-venture company would enable TRI finalise interconnection and roaming agreements with other cities in Iran, a country with a population of 60 million people.

"We have already invested US\$23 million in Iran and we are looking forward to increasing our investments," he said at the signing ceremony.

Besides Malaysia, TRI has also ventured into Cambodia, Tanzania, China, Bangladesh, Canada and the United States.

Iran's Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones Minister Dr Mohamad Reza Aref hailed the joint-venture and said the project could be promoted to other Islamic countries as a symbol of co-operation.

The Esfahan mobile telephone network has a capacity to serve 20,000 subscribers, he said. With the increase of radio wave capacity, the subscriber base could be increased to 35,000.

He said the experience of the two countries in executing overseas ventures and telecommunications projects would provide them with the opportunity to invest in other countries.

"With adequate planning, we can jointly execute many programmes and projects in Muslim and other countries," he said.

At the signing, TRI was represented by its executive director/group executive vice president Puan Wan Aishah Wan Hamid while TCE managing director Ali Nadipour signed on behalf of his company. -- BERNAMA

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