

21/04/1998

Investment in water treatment plants

Valerie Ng

EQUIVENTURES Sdn Bhd, the Johor Baru water supply privatisation concessionaire, has invested over RM600 million to date on infrastructure and facilities for two water treatment plants.

The company, which is the first water supply operator in Malaysia to be awarded the MS ISO 9002 certification, has also committed another RM200 million for such projects until 2001.

The virtual opening of one of the two plants, the Sungai Johor Water Treatment Plant in Kota Tinggi, was held in Johor Baru on Saturday via multimedia technology by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The plant is said to be the country's most modern automated water treatment plant.

The other plant is the Sungai Layang Plant which primarily supplies to the Pasir Gudang industrial zone and Johor Baru.

Both plants supply some 370 million litres of water daily to the city and its surroundings, which meet 80 per cent of the district's daily requirements.

Equiventures was awarded a 20-year concession in June 1992 to supply potable water to the Johor Baru district, which now has over one million residents.

The company is a joint venture between Kembangan Dinamik (M) Sdn Bhd (49 per cent); Pilecon Engineering Bhd and French firm, Suez Lyonnaise des Eaux (25.5 per cent each).

Prior to the launch, Dr Mahathir witnessed the signing of a memorandum of understanding for research and development between the company, its technical partner Suez Lyonnaise des Eaux and Universiti Teknologi Malaysia.

Under the MoU, the three parties will focus efforts to develop innovative solutions for water resource management in Malaysia.

The agreement included research into water resources and reservoir management, water treatment technologies and information technologies aimed at benefiting the Johor Baru district.

Meanwhile, Dr Mahathir also witnessed the MoU signing ceremony between Johore Tenggara Oil Palm Bhd and Teknik Segar Sdn Bhd, to jointly promote and develop a Biotechnology Park at Ladang Sisek in Kota Tinggi.

The park would contain the necessary infrastructure conducive to the development of biotechnology including a biotechnology Science Park, City and Theme Park.

It is expected to contribute significantly to research and development in tropical plants and hence increase food production in the country. Local as well as foreign companies with high research and development commitment are encouraged to establish their units in the park.

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