

22/01/1998

Pantai Medical Centres set to offer telemedicine

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TONGKAH Holdings Bhd can set up fully its telemedicine service at its five Pantai Medical Centres within three months, executive chairman Mokhzani Mahathir said yesterday.

The company is installing telemedicine facilities at Pantai Medical Centres in Bangsar and Cheras - both in Kuala Lumpur; Klang in Selangor; Ipoh in Perak; and Penang, which will allow cases to be referred to consultants in these centres.

The cases could also be referred to medical centres in countries such as Germany, France and the US.

The company is now training staff how to use the service before introducing it, he said.

The telemedicine service would be offered to interested parties such as private hospitals and private practitioners, Mokhzani told reporters after a demonstration of the service in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

The task of training the staff and maintaining the service is carried out by subsidiary, Tongkah Information Resources Sdn Bhd, he said.

Tongkah has teamed up with US-based Worldcare Ltd in offering the telemedicine service via a joint-venture company, Worldcare Health (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd.

The service is now being tested at Pantai Medical Centre in Bangsar and the centre in Klang.

Under the services, diagnoses are conducted through electronic mail, and images are sent over the Internet. Images like X-rays and CAT scans are compressed using a wavelet compression technology to make higher resolutions possible.

On its expansion plan, Mokhzani said Tongkah would open the sixth medical centre in Johor soon.

In addition, it is finalising plans to set up two other new medical centres in Kuala Lumpur (Bangsar), and Selangor. The former is adjacent to the existing medical centre on Jalan Pantai.

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