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SUN MICRO SYSTEMS

SUN MICRO SYSTEMS PRAISES M'SIA FOR PUSHING WITH IT TO REVIVE ECONOMY

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 18 (Bernama) -- Sun Micro Systems Inc chief operating officer Edward J Zander commended Malaysia for pushing on with information technology (IT) as one of the measures to revive the economy.

"One of the best ways to get an economy going again is to invest in IT infrastructure as well as telecommunications and financial services.

"We are seeing this in Latin America and Eastern Europe," he said after a meeting with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the Prime Minister's Department here today.

Zander said he discussed with Dr Mahathir Sun Micro Systems' long term commitment in Malaysia like in the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) project and in terms of working together with Malaysians to foster new thinking on network computing based on Java application.

He said he also discussed how the US-based company could provide new business opportunities in Malaysia and how, through its Java software, it could help Malaysia transform itself from a net importer of IT products and services to a net exporter of such products.

He said the proliferation of network computing with languages like Java provided unique opportunities to develop softwares and export such applications.

On the regional economic crisis Zander said, "certainly the slowdown affects all companies in the near term but we will miss opportunities if we take a short term view."

He said while the company is concerned with Malaysia's economic situation it understands that "things will turn around."

"We want to be anchored here. We want to take opportunities for the next several years," Zander said, adding that the future is in knowledge-based or information-based capital.

Meanwhile, Sun Micro Systems' executive managing director for Asia-South, Lionel Lim, said in the past 12 months, Malaysia has slipped into third position from number two in terms of earnings contribution for Asia-South which covers Asean, India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

However, he said India's contribution has risen because its market is larger and is still growing.

As for the company's Java competency centre which the company is developing with Mimos Bhd in the MSC area, he said Sun Micro Systems would be investing RM4 million.

"People had been trained and system put in place to get the centre running," Lim said.

He also said that the company would donate RM25 million worth of Java software to degree-granting local universities in a ceremony to be held here tonight. -- BERNAMA

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