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Top engineering company seeks listing

A. Devaraj

BINTAI Kinden Corporation Bhd was born out of one man's vision - that of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

BKCB chairman Datuk Ahmad Razali Mohamad Ali said in the 1980's, Dr Mahathir's "Look East" policy provided the impetus for much of the country's rapid infrastructural growth.

"This call was heeded by the company's directors and Kejuruteraan Bintai Kinden Sdn Bhd was created in 1982 in the wake of the construction of the Dayabumi project by a consortium led by the Japanese between 1980 and 1982.

"This project began the transfer of knowledge from the Japanese company, the Kinden Corporation of Japan, to KBK, which is the flagship of BKCB, specialising in mechanical and electrical engineering.

"We finished the job ahead of schedule and from then on we had already earned our reputation and we secured a lot of projects.

"I cannot emphasise the importance of our synergistic relationships with our Japanese joint-venture partners, Kinden Corporation. It is no secret that the superiority of Japanese technological innovation is admired the world over.

"We have learnt well and through the years BKCB has grown and benefited from their innovation.

"BKCB today stands proudly as a leading force in the mechanical and electrical engineering industry," Ahmad Razali said.

Based on its proud achievements, BKCB is seeking a listing on the Main Board of the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange.

BKCB is involved in energy and high technology projects, the demand for which is expected to be strong. These include power plants, airports, shipyards, highways, industrial and commercial complexes, hospitals and petrochemical plants.

"Our company competes successfully with local and foreign companies as we are able to combine the plus points of both in that we have the ability to organise large scale projects and keep to the standards that major international companies can provide whilst charging moderate local prices.

"BKCB has managed to carve a niche in the industry mainly because we have a strong partner in Kinden Corporation of Japan which has 50 years of history and over 8,000 engineers within the company.

"On our part we have 100 skilled engineers."

However BKCB is planning to set up a training school that will provide training and enhanced skills for BKCB staff and other Malaysians.

"This way we hope to overcome the greatest stumbling block to our progress - the lack of a trained, skilled and knowledgeable workforce. This will be our contribution to building an industrialised Malaysia as we want our own workers and not foreign workers.

"It is now our turn to teach, impart knowledge and transfer technology to the poorer, less developed nations.

"Thus it is natural that BKCB is now eyeing projects in China, Vietnam, Myanmar and Brunei. We hope, in time, to pass on the knowledge and technical skills that we have acquired."

Considering the current slowdown in the construction sector, BKCB's approach of being conservative and cautious has given the company the strength to withstand any adverse economic conditions and create a sound platform for growth in the future.

Ahmad Razali said the management is very selective in deciding what projects to undertake.

He added that during the current economic slowdown, the smaller companies will suffer while BKCB will be able to command a bigger market share.

"We are a very healthy company and have no borrowings at all. Thus we expect to secure more jobs as people will have confidence in us. We expect to sail through these difficult times like we did in the mid-1980's."

He said BKCB will emerge stronger after listing with its proven record over the last 15 years.