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LEAD OOCL-MALAYSIA

OOCL WANTS TO SEE PORT KLANG AS ONE OF ITS TRANSPORTATION HUBS

PUTRAJAYA, Feb 29 (Bernama) -- Orient Overseas Container Line (OOCL), a Hong Kong-based global container transportation company, is keen to make Port Klang one of its transportation hubs, said OOCL (Asia Pacific) Ltd's managing director, Jim Poon, today.

"Port Klang's infrastructure is beautiful and world class. It is also located at the +centre of the centre+," he said after a 45-minute meeting with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad here. Poon was accompanied by the Minister of Transport, Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik, and several OOCL officials at the meeting.

Lauding Port Klang's location, he said, "To the west (of Port Klang) there is the Middle East and going further there is Europe and the Mediterranean countries."

Besides that, Port Klang has also served well as a transshipment hub and the infrastructure being developed would enable access to Thailand, Cambodia and Myanmar through the railway system, Poon said.

At the moment, OOCL has 11 sailings per week into and out of Port Klang and is going to introduce an additional service in April. The new service will connect Port Klang and Penang with South Korea, Taiwan and Hong Kong on one hand and the Middle East and the Indian subcontinent on the other, he added.

Poon said OOCL would constantly review its operations in Malaysia and with two new ships already received and a further six to be received this year and next year, OOCL was surely going to do more.

He said Malaysia, under Dr Mahathir, had weathered all kind of storms in last two to three years and was now entering a new era of prosperity.

"Malaysia is a place to invest and a place to make money. It is a stepping stone to venturing into new markets and other regions," he added.

"We at OOCL have always had very a close relationship with Malaysia and admiration for it," he added.

Like any company, OOCL is always on the lookout for new investment opportunities, he said, adding Malaysia's investment climate was good for its kind of business.

The company is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Orient Overseas (International) Ltd, which is listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange.

OOCL offers complete coverage of east-west shipping corridors linking North America, Europe, the Mediterranean, the Indian sub-continent, West Asia and Asia.

It also offers the most comprehensive coverage of the intra-Asia trade and regular loops to Australia and New Zealand complete the coverage in Asia-Pacific.--BERNAMA

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