

04 OCT 2001

RAFIDAH-ICT

M'SIAN MANUFACTURERS YET TO FULLY TAP ICT, SAYS RAFIDAH

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 4 (Bernama) -- Malaysian manufacturers have yet to fully tapped information and communications technology (ICT) in their manufacturing activities, said the international trade and industry minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz today.

She said various surveys conducted from 1999 to 2000 revealed there was a low level of ICT usage and application among local manufacturers.

Speaking at the CEO Summit 2001 today, she said a survey undertaken in 1999 by the Federation Malaysian Manufacturers (FMM) on 126 companies, found that all respondents had at least one personal computer (PC) in their respective organisations, with 76 percent of the PCs having networking capabilities.

The summit themed, "Action for Knowledgeable & Sustainable Industries (AKSI)" was launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today.

Rafidah said in the survey, 72 percent of the respondents used software mainly in low level IT applications and basic functions in administration such as word processing for spreadsheets, e-mailing and accounting.

Only 28 percent of the respondents used ICT for database management i.e Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP), Computer Added Design (CAD) - Computer Added Manufacturing (CAM) in manufacturing, designing and for Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) functions.

This, she said, only applied to larger-sized companies. On the whole, she said 55.5 percent of the respondents indicated having annual budget for ICT.

In the context of internet access in Malaysia, there are an estimated over 8.0 million users in Malaysia in 2000 compared with only about 30,000 in 1995.

Up to Aug 31 2001, there was a total of 23,786 domain names registered in Malaysia compared with only 100 in 1995 and 1,943 at the end of 1997.

As for e-commerce, Rafidah said it has begun to expand in Malaysia, although at a slow pace.

In 2000, the estimated total e-commerce transactions stood at around RM1.6302 billion with business to business (B2B) transactions totalling about RM978.1 million.

Business to Consumers (B2C) transactions, meanwhile, totalled at RM652.1 million.

For 2001, projected e-commerce transactions are expected to reach RM2.4208 billion, with B2B transactions accounting for around 60 percent of the total transactions.

In 2005, Rafidah said that e-commerce transactions are expected to reach a total RM9.4 billion with growth projected at an annual rate of 42.5 percent.

These statistics, Rafidah said, are only indicative of the potential of the application of ICT in industry and trade.

ER SHY