

11/12/2001

Penang set to spearhead nation's role

PENANG is set to spearhead Malaysia's role as a regional leader in the adoption of RosettaNet, thanks to proactive efforts taken by the Government in setting up a platform for local companies to do e-business with the rest of the world.

In thanking the Government for its foresight and support in encouraging RosettaNet in Malaysia, technology companies on Malaysia's Silicon Island are set to do their bit in mentoring local companies to get on the RosettaNet bandwagon.

Free Industrial Zone Penang Companies' Association (Frepenca) president Datuk Wong Siew Hai said in an interview:

"This will enhance the viability of Penang as an investment site as the companies can link directly into the global supply chain."

Penang is leading the way and will be ahead of many other countries in Asia, including China.

For more than three decades, Penang has been an offshore base for some of the world's IT giants such as Intel, Motorola, Agilent Technologies, Seagate and Robert Bosch.

Frepenca represents some 60 companies in Penang, the majority of which are electronics-based.

The association boasts a joint workforce exceeding 70,000 with cumulative investments totalling RM16 billion.

An initial allocation of RM5 million for the RosettaNet initiative for next year was announced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad when tabling the 2002 Budget in October.

The estimated administration cost of RM500,000 for RosettaNet Malaysia next year will be borne through a 60:40 contribution by the Penang Development Corporation and the Federal Government (through the Ministry of International Trade and Industry) respectively.

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