

Dr M tours the Muhibbah airport project in Cambodia

MUHIBBAH Engineering (Cambodia) Co Ltd, a subsidiary of Muhibbah Engineering (M) Bhd and concessionaire of the Pochentong International Airport in Cambodia, hosted a visit by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to the airport last Sunday.

Dr Mahathir, who was leading the Malaysian delegation to the Asean + 3 Summit in Cambodia, was taken on a brief tour of the airport facilities which included the new international terminal and the new VIP terminal during his stop-over at the country's main gateway, the company said in a statement.

Muhibbah Engineering (M) Bhd, in a joint venture with the French Vinci Group, had secured the project for the privatisation of Pochentong International Airport in 1995 following the visit to Cambodia by a delegation led by the Prime Minister in 1994.

The company was awarded a 25-year concession for the development and management of the airport operations in Pochentong. In 2000, it took over the management of the

Siem Reap Airport, which leads to the Angkor Wat site.

The investment in the Pochentong International Airport to date is about RM323mil. The airport is expected to be fully operational in December.

Since its privatisation, its passenger throughput has increased from 650,000 passengers per annum to one million in 2001.

To cater to the increased traffic, the company has upgraded and installed new facilities, including building a new 22,000-sq m terminal with a capacity of 1.8 million passengers a year.

The architects and engineers involved in the construction of the airport are Malaysian companies Linear Vista Sdn Bhd and KTA (Sarawak) Sdn Bhd while Malaysia Airports Bhd provides the airport management expertise.

"Muhibbah is committed to investing and developing in Cambodia and we look forward to a long-term relationship with the development of Cambodia," its managing director Mac Ngan Boon said in the statement.