

17/09/2002

Old rail tracks, bridges to be sent to Cambodia

PORT KLANG, Mon. - The railway tracks and bridges which will be replaced under KTM Bhd's double-tracking and electrification project will be donated to Cambodia.

Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said the tracks and bridges would be used to complete the missing links in the Trans-Asia railway link project.

Dr Ling said this after receiving China's Communications Minister Huang Zhendong at the Port Klang Authority here today.

He said there were several gaps in the proposed route that runs over Cambodia.

They are a 48km stretch from Poipet to Sisophon while another is from the capital Phnom Penh to Lochinh to Ho Chi Minh city in Vietnam. This stretch covers 240km.

The RM9.5 billion Trans-Asia railway link covers 5,500km from Singapore to Kunming in southern China.

The KTM project is divided into three phases covering the Rawang-Ipoh, Ipoh-Padang Besar and Seremban-Johor Baru sectors. The project is expected to be completed in 2008.

Dr Ling said a request for the tracks and bridges was made by the Cambodian Government and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had agreed to it.

Dr Ling said the decision to donate the tracks and bridges would be conveyed to his Cambodian counterpart on Thursday.