

03/08/2002

Awards for vendors of hi-tech giants

Marina Emmanuel

TWELVE local vendors of high- technology giants in Penang will be acknowledged this month when Malaysia's silicon island celebrates three decades of the country's electrical and electronics (E and E) sector.

The Penang-based small- and medium-sized companies - some of which have emerged global suppliers to technology firms around the globe - will receive awards from Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on August 27 at Hotel Equatorial Penang during a seminar "Growing with Penang."

Dr Mahathir, who will deliver a keynote address at the seminar, will also present awards to Penang's eight pioneer E and E companies which set up their operations here in 1972.

The pioneers - often referred to as the 8 Samurais are Advanced Micro Devices Products Sdn Bhd, Agilent Technologies Sdn Bhd, Clarion (M) Sdn Bhd, Fairchild Semiconductor Sdn Bhd, Hitachi Semiconductor (M) Sdn Bhd, Intel Malaysia Sdn Bhd, Osram Opto Semiconductor (M) Sdn Bhd and Robert Bosch (M) Sdn Bhd.

Pointing to Penang's first "leap" when it established itself as a world-class partner in global high-technology manufacturing 30 years ago, the Penang Development Corp's (PDC) public affairs unit head Shahril Cheah Abdullah said:

"Now, as other locations move up to compete in this sector, Penang must leap again to create a new foundation for competitiveness and growth."

He said the half-day seminar, will see the presence of high-tech luminaries like Agilent Technologies' chief operating officer Bill Sullivan, Hitachi executive vice-president Yoshiro Kuwata, Osram GmbH president Dr Wolf-Dieter Bopst and Intel Corp chief executive officer Datuk Dr Craig Barrett.

"The session," added Shahril, "will examine the regional and corporate trends shaping today's environment, and explore some of the strategies for Penang's second leap".

Barrett and Sullivan are due to share the benefits derived from the long partnerships their respective companies have shared with Malaysia and how their investments have grown in size, responsibilities and sophistication.

Another seminar speaker William H. Davidson who is an international management consultant, researcher and writer will address the economic trends of this region and the challenges to smaller economies like Malaysia, as China emerges as an economic power.

For more details on the seminar contact Aznita Zainuddin at the PDC; Tel:04-634 0111/634 0202, Fax:04-641 3742, email: aznita@pdc.gov.my or log on to www.pdc.gov.my