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DHL-GROWTH

DHL FORESEES DOUBLE DIGIT GROWTH FOR ASIA PACIFIC MARKET IN 2002

CYBERJAYA, Sept 4 (Bernama) -- DHL Worldwide Express, the pioneer of international air express industry, foresees a double digit growth for its Asia Pacific market in 2002.

Its director for Southeast Asia, Bryan Jamison, said that the company was on track to achieving this growth, which would be in line with the consistent progress in the business environment in the current year compared to the previous year's second half.

He said that the better environment had contributed to the gradual improvement in exports and trade, and being in the service industry, DHL has benefited from it.

"In the first half of this year, we made a good start but the growth in some markets was not as good as that during the first half of last year, which was stronger," he said.

Jamison was speaking to reporters at a media familiarisation tour of DHL's Asia Pacific Information Services (APIS) new facility here, which will be officially opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Friday.

He said that the better gross domestic product (GDP) and export growth reported in the Asean region, especially in Malaysia, was a good sign for the company.

Jamison also said that China's entry into the World Trade Organisation (WTO) had provided vast opportunities for DHL to expand.

"It's (China) a fast growing market," he said.

Jamison said that with sales of over RM22.9 billion in 2001, DHL is a global leader in the air express industry, accounting for a market share of 37.5 percent.

He said that the European market was the major contributor to the company's profits, while the Asia Pacific market was comparatively a solid contributor.

In Malaysia, DHL was the pioneer of international express service in the 1970s and continued to be the market leader, he said.

Since its establishment, DHL Malaysia has invested heavily to boost its facilities and services in Malaysia.

It currently operates five international gateways and extensive ground network service nationwide via 28 service centres and 700 employees.

Its five gateways are in Kuala Lumpur, Penang, Johor Baharu, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah and Kuching, Sarawak. -- BERNAMA

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