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Improving economy will help DHL achieve growth target

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THE improving regional economic landscape is expected to help air express company DHL Worldwide Express achieve its target of double-digit growth.

South-East Asia area director Bryan Jamison said DHL's business, which is closely related to trade activities, is expected to gain from the improvements in the macro economy, manufacturing and exports across the Asia Pacific.

"Our business mirrors that," he told reporters recently after a familiarisation visit to the DHL Asia-Pacific Information Services (DHL APIS) facility in Cyberjaya.

The RM200 million complex, which will be officially opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today, is one of the company's three global data centres, with the others located in London and Phoenix, Arizona.

Jamison said the company, which recorded sales of 6.3 billion euros (1 euro = RM3.76) last year saw a decline in its business in the second half of last year, brought about by the September 11 incident.

He said however, business has picked up since the first quarter of this year, although the performance in the first half has yet to match that recorded in the same period last year.

He said DHL is on track towards achieving growth in the region, partly driven by its operations in China, whose growth was less affected than other countries after September 11.

In the Association of South-East Asian Nations region, he said, Malaysia came out as the second best performer for DHL after Vietnam.

DHL APIS, which is the company's regional IT hub, previously had its premises at the IOI Mall in Puchong since 1998.

With the move to Cyberjaya, the hub provides ongoing support to the Asia-Pacific region including 24-hour service delivery management of all components in the network.

DHL APIS is also responsible for the delivery of an extensive range of applications and acts as one of DHL's global training centres.

Its staff strength is expected to grow to 450 people by year-end from the current 370, 86 per cent of whom are recruited locally.

DHL, which operates in 220 countries and territories worldwide is majority owned by Deutsche Post World Net.