

03/07/2002

Penang plans to celebrate electronics sector achievements

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MALAYSIA's achievements in the electronics industry for the past three decades will be celebrated on the country's Silicon Island - Penang - next month.

The August 27 event will include the presence of global high-technology luminaries like Intel Corp's chief executive officer Datuk Dr Craig Barret, Agilent Technologies' executive vice-president and chief operating officer William (Bill) P. Sullivan and Yoshiro Huwata, executive vice-president and director and representative director of Hitachi Ltd.

It is being organised by the Penang Development Corp (PDC) to acknowledge the setting up of the country's first free industrial zone in Bayan Lepas on Penang island in 1972.

"The 30th anniversary programme is a way for the Penang State Government to show its recognition and appreciation to the confidence of the industry and their continuous commitment to Penang," Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon said at the launch of the logo for the 30th anniversary celebrations at the PDC in Penang yesterday.

The first eight companies in the electrical and electronics (E&E) industry which set up offshore bases on the island 30 years ago will also be acknowledged at this event, he added.

Penang's eight E&E pioneers 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.

"These eight pioneers," said Koh, "have since grown in strength, both in Penang and globally, achieving leadership positions in their respective products and field of excellence.

"Their presence has contributed to our national economic growth by providing jobs and transferring technology to our people as well as spawning the local Malaysian small- and medium-size industry, some of which have grown into global suppliers in their own right.

"The celebrations cover the following three major programmes to be held on August 27 - a half-day seminar themed 'Growing with Penang', a state recognition lunch where Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is scheduled to deliver a premier address and present special state government awards to the eight pioneers and winners for the Best Vendor Award, and a celebration dinner themed "Here to Stay" where the eight pioneer companies plan to recognise their long-serving employees.

Judging criteria for the Best Vendor Award include having served the eight pioneer companies for at least 15 years, invested in technology and human resource development for self-development in order to serve customers and active provision of critical customer support services to the eight pioneer companies.

More details on the event are available by contacting Aznita Zainuddin at the PDC, Tel:04-6340111/6340202, Fax:04-641 3742 or email:aznita@pdc.gov.my