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LAW-BIOVALLEY

BIOVALLEY TO HOUSE A WIDE SPECTRUM OF BIOTECH-RELATED ACTIVITIES

PUTRAJAYA, May 20 (Bernama) -- Bio-Valley Malaysia will house a wide spectrum of biotechnology-related activities such as drug research and bio-processes operating on different platform technologies, said Science, Technology and the Environment Minister, Datuk Seri Law Hieng Ding.

He said biotechnology-relevant companies sited in Bio-Valley Malaysia would enjoy world class infrastructure and a conducive work environment with shared facilities and services.

They include advanced communication systems, network infrastructure and business support services for commercialisation, he said at Bio-Valley Malaysia's ground-breaking ceremony officiated by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, in Dengkil, near here today.

Bio-Valley Malaysia, a government-backed initiative designed to accelerate the growth of the local biotechnology industry, is located on a 200ha site south of Cyberjaya.

Some 80ha of the land will be developed in the first phase with the balance to be developed in later stages.

Bio-Valley Malaysia will be represented by three core national institutes, namely the Agro-Biotechnology Institute, Pharmaceutical and Nutraceutical Institute and the Genomics and Molecular Biology Institute, which are expected to be fully operational by the year 2006.

Law said the Bio-Valley Development Corporation (BDC) would be established to manage the development of Bio-Valley Malaysia.

Malaysia has been involved in biotechnology research and development, primarily in the agricultural sector since the 1980s.

At today's ground-breaking ceremony, two companies -- Inproser Technologies Sdn Bhd and INS ZHEN-AO Biotech Corporation Sdn Bhd -- signed the letter of intent with the relevant authorities.

Inproser Technologies was represented by its president Henri ten Have (rpt: Henri ten Have) while China-based INS ZHEN-AO Biotech was represented by its directors, Datuk David Yeat Sew Chuong and Chen Yu Song.

The Science, Technology and Environment Ministry was represented by its Secretary-General, Datuk Leong Ah Hin, and its deputy secretary-general, (policy) Dr Hashim Hassan, and the Ministry of Health by its deputy director-general, Datuk Dr Ismail Merican. -- BERNAMA

MKO SHY