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SEMICONDUCTOR-FABLESS

SEMICONDUCTOR PRODUCERS TURNING TO THE FABLESS WAY

KANGAR, Sept 9 (Bernama) -- The Fabless concept or producing without a factory is increasingly becoming the choice for many semiconductor companies in the country -- showing a positive shift for the manufacturing industry, says the executive director of SilTerra Malaysia Sdn Bhd (SilTerra), Ahmad Pardas Senin.

The trend not only reduces the risks for producers but also averts the high investment burden involved in the set up and maintenance of a factory, he said.

Producers also end up having more time to give attention to activities such as design creation and marketing without having the need to look into their factory activities, he said.

Talking to reporters after the opening ceremony for a national seminar on Microelectronic 2003 here today, Ahmad Pardas said that the new trend among producers have intensified activities among the existing semiconductor companies in the country.

SilTerra is a local multinational company based in Kulim, Kedah and produces world class semiconductor wafer fabrication systems.

The company, established in 1995, was officially launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in 2001.

Ahmad Pardas said that the company marked its highest achievement when it received international recognition as the "World's Top Fab Award" or the World's Best Semiconductor Facility Award from the Semiconductor International Magazine.

He said SilTerra was now actively looking into establishing partnerships with local higher institutions of learning in carrying out joint development programme towards new discoveries in the area of microelectronics.

Meanwhile, a total of 80 engineers from higher institutions of learning as well as the private sector are attending the three-day seminar for which SilTerra is the major sponsor.

Co-organisers for the event are the Perlis State Government, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineering (IEEE), Electron Device Society (EDS), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) and Kolej Universiti Kejuruteraan Utara Malaysia (KUKUM). -- BERNAMA

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