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TMNET-MERGE

TMNET-JARING MERGE TALKS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED BY NEXT MARCH

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 16 (Bernama) -- Negotiations between Telekom Malaysia and Internet service provider (ISP), Jaring, on the proposed merger are expected to be completed by next March, Deputy Energy, Communications and Multimedia Minister Datuk Tan Chai Ho said here today.

He said discussions regarding Telekom Malaysia's acquisition of Jaring were still on-going and progressing on a positive note.

However, if any problems were to arise during the course of negotiations, the ministry would not hesitate to assist both parties, he said when asked on the status and progress of the merger between the two local giant ISPs.

Tan was attending a media conference on the Asia Pacific Regional Internet Conference on Operational Technologies (Apricot) 2004.

The conference, to be held at the Palace of the Golden Horses from Feb 18-27, is expected draw more than 1,000 Internet engineers from Asia Pacific.

While presenting the 2004 Budget last September, former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad touched on the merger of the two ISPs to ensure wider and more efficient Internet services in the country at a lower rate.

TMNet is a subsidiary of Telekom Malaysia while Jaring, an acronym of Joint Advanced Research Integrated Networking project, was developed and managed by Mimos Bhd as Malaysia's first and main Internet access provider.

-- BERNAMA

SHR TJK