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KPMG wants to be part of local e-Education application

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KPMG Consulting Sdn Bhd hopes to be part of the electronic education (e-Education) application in Malaysia, after its success with the electronic Syariah (e-Syariah) court application systems.

"e-Education can be implemented to leverage technology to support life-

long learning of Malaysians. This is in line with the Government's strategy towards k-economy by producing knowledge-based workers," said managing director YK Chin.

In an interview with Business Time recently, he said KPMG Consulting, which is a consulting division of the 75-year old auditing firm KPMG Malaysia, has not approached the Government with its e-Education proposal.

However, Chin said, with the current emphasis on mathematics and science to facilitate knowledge acquisition, it is a natural progression for the Government to look at e-Education.

He said KPMG Consulting has the necessary expertise to oversee such project.

"We've been working on government projects, so we understand the working environment of various government agencies," he said.

To implement the e-Education in Malaysia, Chin said, one needs to have in-depth understanding of the dynamism and local environment of the country.

There should also be an awareness that e-Learning cannot replace face-to-face intellectual debate.

"And just because the system works in other countries, we can't just pluck it and supply it to Malaysia," he added.

Chin said the important consideration in any technology project is the people who use the technology, and therefore, develop value from it.

This is where KPMG Consulting comes in as the company can work with people to make them accept system changes.

He further said that KPMG Consulting is backed 100 per cent by local staff who understand the local environment and needs. The company also has

a strong methodology as well as local skills with international exposure.

"We don't just parachute astronaut consultants in projects that we handle. Most of the project team members are locals and we can tap our international experience," he said.

Chin said KPMG Consulting helps clients extract value from technology solutions by mapping out the processes and identifying areas which can be improved.

"We look at the process first and then we put in technology. To do this, companies need to have good project managers in order to deliver the

desired result," he said.

KPMG Consulting's credibility as a project manager is proven with the completion of the first phase of e-Syariah, a Web-enabled integrated electronic application system for Syariah courts nationwide.

E-Syariah, an e-Government project, was launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on February 7.

The system is designed to improve the management of court cases while streamlining the various processes involved, including the registration of Syariah lawyers and online monitoring of Syariah case status.

In managing the e-Syariah project, KPMG Consulting's project team has to deal with several contractors and 13 states. It has completed the first phase of the project ahead of schedule. "We are currently in the second phase and the whole project (six phases) will be completed by 2005," he said.

Chin said KPMG Consulting is currently managing several federal and state governments' projects, but declined to reveal the projects as they have yet to be launched.

KPMG Consulting started involvement in technology projects some 10 years ago. Other activities include human resource consulting and e-HR solutions.