

Malaysia ranks No 3

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KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia ranks third in the number of women in senior management positions in medium to large enterprises (MLEs), according to the 2007 Grant Thornton International Business Report.

On a list of 32 countries, only the Philippines and China topped us. According to the report, 85 per cent of Malaysian MLEs have women in senior management positions. The Philippines had 97 per cent and China, 91.

Malaysia came out ahead of countries such as the United States, France and Germany.

The high percentage of businesses with women in senior management was an indication of their active participation in the nation's economy, said Shamsir Jasani Grant Thornton managing partner Datuk N.K. Jasani in a statement yesterday.

"Some managerial job concentration by gender is reflected with women managers here likely dominating positions in accountancy, human resources, public affairs, communications, advertising, health care and the law. This is normal, based on the nature of the jobs and some slight preference of employees as well as employers," he said.

Asia tended to have a higher

proportion of businesses with women in senior management than Europe or the United States, the statement said.

Japan is the exception, with only 25 per cent.

But Malaysia did not do as well in terms of the number of women in senior positions in individual companies. On average, only 23 per cent of the senior management positions in MLEs here are held by women. But this is one per cent higher than the global average.

Filipinas topped the list again with an average of 50 per cent of women holding senior positions in a company, while Japan was stuck at the bottom with seven per cent.

The Philippines is the only country where women have parity with men in senior management roles.

"The participation of women in senior business management has been rising steadily over the last three years. It is particularly encouraging to see some Asian economies leading the way," said Jasani.

The Grant Thornton International Business Report is an annual survey of privately-owned MLEs in 32 countries involving 7,000 respondents.

It was done late last year.

One of the key findings was that 38 per cent of businesses worldwide did not have any women in senior management.